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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the proposal to put up pachinko parlors at the former La Fiesta Mall?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

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Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipeoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Burial Ground

Where Michael Jackson's body will be laid to rest remained a mystery.

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Filing of candidacy starts today. **PAGE 3**
CUC rehabilitates 69 water wells in 2008. **PAGE 5**

CNMI leaders ink joint position on submerged lands bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President

Pete P. Reyes, and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios came up yesterday with a joint position supporting the submerged lands bill that is now pending in the U.S.

Congress.

Fitial, Reyes, and Palacios urged CNMI Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan to push for the passage of H.R. 934 in order

to give the CNMI control over the first three miles of its submerged lands.

At the start of yesterday's Senate session, the leaders agreed to support the bill. **See LEADERS on Page 4**

Most govt employees now at risk

“Almost all government employees are now considered at risk. ...Accidents do happen...and we want employees to be protected.”

—Retirement Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon



Due to absence of WCC insurance

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Well over 5,000 government employees are not insured and are now considered at risk, making them vulnerable should they get into an accident while in the line of work.

See GOVT on Page 4

More resident workers hired as hotels prepare for federalization

By **ANITA B. HOFSCHEIDER**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Some hotels on island are gearing up for the effects of federalization of immigration in November this year by decreasing their nonresident workforce and hiring more local employees.

“We made a conscious decision midway through 2008 to start not renewing some employment contracts because of

A Japanese tourist waits for the bus that will take him to the airport at the lobby of the Hafadai Beach Hotel. The hotel said that 63 percent of its workers are residents—a 5 percent increase from last year—as it prepares itself for the federalization of labor and immigration in November.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

impending federalization,” said Joseph Asanuma, Human Resource manager at Mariana Resort & Spa, on Wednesday. He added that the economic recession and the outbreak of swine flu also fueled this decision.

According to Asanuma, the company's workforce was less than 50 percent residents. **See RESIDENT on Page 4**

IF GIVEN GREEN CARDS

‘Most guest workers would prefer to stay’

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
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REPORTER

Visiting law professor Rose Cuisson Villazor believes that, if given immigrant visas, most guest workers in the CNMI will prefer to stay rather than leave the islands.

This is because Saipan is closer to home for most alien workers than the U.S. mainland or Hawaii, Villazor said.

At the same time, the lower cost of living in the CNMI is a factor. **See GUEST on Page 4**



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Visiting law professor Rose Cuisson Villazor of Hofstra University stresses a point during her presentation about U.S. immigration issues last Wednesday night at the Multi-Purpose Center.



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Local



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Budweiser King Off The Road grand prize winner John I. Tagabuel, right, gets the key of his new dirt buggy from MARPAC marketing manager Jojo Camacho.

Labor employee wins dirt buggy in Bud promo

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

John I. Tagabuel grinned as he climbed into the driver's seat of his newest truck—a customized tube-frame dirt buggy that he won in the Budweiser King Off the Road promotion.

"I will bring this home first, show it to my family and drive around for a while," said Tagabuel during a simple turnover ceremony yesterday at the MARPAC office in Gualo Rai.

MARPAC marketing manager Jojo Camacho, who handed over the vehicle's key to Tagabuel, said the buggy is worth between \$28,000 to \$40,000.

Tagabuel was among the huge crowd that waited several hours during the grand raffle draw held Saturday night at the Hard Rock Café.

He said could not explain how he felt about winning because he himself was shocked at the turn of events.

"I just kept running around because I was so excited," said Tagabuel, an employee at the Department of Labor.

He said he dropped 24 cou-

pons during the promotional period from April 13 to July 4 then added three more coupons during the night of the grand draw.

It was the first time he has won in any raffle draw.

Like last year, Tagabuel's coupon was the second to be picked as the first winner was not around.

The dirt buggy was built by 13 people in a period of eight months at the J.Q. Fabrication in Guam.

It is powered by a Toyota engine with a 4-cylinder motor and Toyota axles. Its frame alone cost about \$15,000. It has a detachable steering wheel.

However, Tagabuel cannot drive his buggy along Saipan's highways. In fact Tagabuel doesn't know yet what to do with the truck. Mechanics will have to explain to him how to operate it.

Other prizes won included Budweiser gear, cellular phones from Docomo Pacific and items from Boarderline.

The promo was co-sponsored by Hard Rock Café Saipan, Docomo Pacific, Hertz, Boarderline, Power 99, Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel, Sauza, and Marianas Shipping Company.

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CUC incurs high OT due to lack of staff

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has accumulated extreme overtimes due to lack of staff to operate the Saipan and Rota power plants.

CUC executive director Antonio Muña noted that from pay period numbers two to 11 of 2009, the utility agency incurred 18,053 hours of overtime.

"Such extreme hours result in inefficiencies and poor work quality," Muña said.

Muña is asking the Legislature to allow CUC to hire more alien workers.

In a letter to the Legislature, Muña expressed concern over safety issues due to overworked employees, delayed compliance of stipulated orders, and proper maintenance of CUC equipment.

"Lack of relief in nonresident hiring will undoubtedly result in substandard delivery of utility services," he said.

Muña wants to hire nonresident workers to fill engineering, professional, skilled and trainer positions in the field of engineering, accounting, information technology, technical, and industry trade.

CUC's contract with Aggreko for temporary electric power generation expires in September 2009. Muña said CUC does not have enough personnel to run the Saipan and Rota plants after September.

He said the electric power rehabilitation of the main power plant facilities in Lower

Base requires 16 more workers who are familiar with the engines at the plants and can begin work immediately.

Public Law 16-14 bars CUC from hiring above the 19 non-U.S. citizen technical workers who are presently employed with the agency. **(Ferdie dela Torre)**

The Commonwealth Election Commission is ready for today's filing of candidacies for gubernatorial hopefuls and other candidates in the November 2009 general election.

Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero said yesterday their staff is prepared to accept petitions should any candidate file their candidacy today, Friday.

Guerrero said the deadline for

Filing of candidacy starts today

filing of candidacy is Aug. 10.

To file, the interested person should bring a copy of the petition containing a minimum of 200 certified signatures and a copy of a receipt for gubernatorial relief in the amount of \$500.

The Legislature recently passed a bill appropriating \$172,369.87 to the commis-

sion for the 2009 general election. The bill now heads to Fitial for approval.

Rep. Tina Sablan had questioned the appropriation. "I had been aware that recent amendments to the CNMI's election laws would most likely result in additional costs, but it wasn't clear yet how much exactly,"

Sablan said yesterday.

She said the day before the bill was introduced, the commission asked for a \$295,000 budget. "This request was distributed to the members only minutes after the bill was introduced, so there was very little time to scrutinize the request and determine whether or not the \$175K appropriation was sufficient or perhaps excessive," Sablan said. **(Ferdie dela Torre)**

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Most deaths in Pacific due to lifestyle diseases

MADANG, Papua New Guinea—A World Health Organization survey confirmed that non-communicable diseases linked to poor lifestyles re-

main the leading causes of death in 15 Pacific Island countries, accounting for 75 percent of deaths annually.

These diseases, such as ischemic

heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and type 2 diabetes, are largely due to preventable lifestyle factors including smoking, poor diet, physical inactivity and excessive consumption of alcohol. **(SPC)**

RESIDENT

From Page 1

than 35 percent local at this time last year. Now, it is 46 percent local. Their goal is to have a 50 percent local workforce by the time federalization kicks in four months from now.

Asanuma said he anticipates hiring more local residents due to the change in immigration.

Angela Yamashita-Santos, Human Resources director for Pacific Islands Club, had the same view. "We have been training more locals in the past couple of years," Yamashita-Santos said on Wednesday.

The current number of residents working at PIC has risen by a few percentage points since last year, she said. It is now just over 40 percent.

A Human Resources representative at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan said on Wednesday that the company is having a similar experience.

Almost 40 percent of the resort's workforce is made up of resident workers; this number has been increasing as the company strives to meet a projected goal and they expect to hire more residents when federalization takes place.

Hiro Sugie, general manager and director of sales and marketing at Aqua Resort Club Saipan, said yesterday that the number of resident employees at the hotel has risen in the past year, from 40 to 45 percent.

This increase was in anticipation of the change in immigration, he said, and the company will continue to gradually hire more local employees, although he noted that the bulk of the hiring will take place after federalization occurs.

Juan Tenorio, Human Resources director at Hafadai Beach Hotel, said on Wednesday that 63 percent of their workers are residents. This is a 5 percent increase from last year.

Yet unlike some other hotels, Tenorio said that Hafadai Beach Hotel has not been hiring more residents in preparation for federalization because of the vagueness of federalization's effects.

"Even if we wanted to, prepare for what?" Tenorio asked. "We are kept in the dark. We don't know where we're going."

Tenorio was not alone in this perspective.

"There is so much uncertainty regarding what we can or cannot do under U.S. immigration," Asanuma said.

Challenges

Both the vagueness surrounding the situation and the possibility of hiring many more resident workers have led some hotels to view the transition to U.S. immigration as a challenge.

Yamashita-Santos said PIC has continued to rely on contract workers because of problems retaining local hires.

"People don't apply for certain jobs, and when they do they just don't stay," she said.

PIC is not the only hotel to have that experience.

"You hire locals and you train them and then a couple of months later they go off island," said a representative from Human Resources at Fiesta Resort.

Yet local residents have recently been embracing jobs that they previously avoided, Yamashita-Santos noted.

Applicants' willingness to work in

jobs such as waitressing and housekeeping has been increasing, she said.

This pattern has appeared elsewhere.

"Our housekeeping department was once 100 percent contract workers," Asanuma said. Now it is 90 percent local residents.

Similarly, Tenorio said the housekeeping department at Hafadai Beach Hotel is 100 percent resident workers.

Nonresident workers in these hotels are now most prevalent in occupations that require skilled labor.

Asanuma said that contract workers have been retained in areas such as electrical work, carpentry, and accounting.

Tenorio said that all of Hafadai Beach Hotel's accountants are nonresident workers, and 70 percent of their maintenance and engineering departments is composed of nonresidents.

One main difficulty with transitioning to a greater reliance on resident workers is the lack of trained workers, some hotel representatives said.

"I don't know of any executive chefs on island," said an employee in Human Resources at Fiesta Resort. "Ours is not a resident worker."

"There really isn't anywhere on island that provides the kind of training that hotels require," Yamashita-Santos said.

"I strongly believe that NMC is not providing the training [needed to compensate for] the exodus of nonresidents," Tenorio said.

Perspectives

Despite the challenges that several hotels are expecting, they aren't giving up on the game.

Worker's Compensation Program has not been funded since FY 2006 and the only funding provided to the Fund is for staff and operations. Allotments for government insurance have not been provided since then.

Aguon said they noted a few employees who have been affected and were not paid by the program.

He said the Fund has communicated to both the Legislature and the central government in order to reduce the risk exposure of government employees.

The Fund presented two options the CNMI government could undertake: earmark half of the payroll budget every year to WCC or procure a third-party workers compensation coverage for each agency, including the central government.

'Continuing risk exposure'

According to an audit report released Wednesday, the imminent risk surrounding the government Worker's Compensation Program is mainly due to under-funding.

Since the program's creation, it made payouts of over \$900,000 for medical expenses for a few major casualties.

Should 10 employees be exposed to the same fatalities, WCC would need at least \$4.5 million in cash reserves, the audit report stated.

"Accidents do happen...and we want employees to be protected," Aguon said.

The Workers Compensation Commission was created in 1989 to imple-

ment the CNMI workers compensation law, which is meant to provide financial protection to both employers and employees for the catastrophic effects of work related injuries, illnesses, or deaths. It is a social insurance plan that compensates employees for disabilities incurred from work-related injuries regardless of fault and is being administered by the Retirement Fund trustees.

'April notice'

In his April notice to employers, Aguon stated that WCC records indicate that no government payments have been remitted to the government employee's self-insurance fund, or the special disability fund.

This failure to pay, he said, triggers the application of penalties and interest as mandated by law, and gives rise to an additional legal funding obligation.

According to the law's provision, any employer or carrier who fails to remit or make required payments into the special disability fund or the self-insurance fund shall be assessed a 10-percent penalty monthly or a fraction, or the amount unpaid, not to exceed 50 percent in the aggregate plus 12-percent per annum interest.

Aguon said that if a government employer of over 200 employees has elected to be self-insured, there is a duty to pay into the special disability fund—an amount equal to 1 percent of the total salaries paid not exceeding \$1,500 for each employer.

"I'm trying to be positive about this," Yamashita-Santos said. "All we can do is train our staff as best we can so we can provide the best possible service to our customers."

Asanuma expressed even more confidence in the outcome of federalization.

"It's high time that we start seriously looking at our own workforce," he said. "Initially, just like any transition there are challenges, but it will work out for the best...In the long run, it will be better."

At least for a while, the changes that hotels may fear may not even take place, according to attorneys Bruce L. Mailman and Maya B. Kara, who work with a majority of immigration-related cases.

Anybody who has a valid CNMI entry permit on Nov. 28 will be allowed to work until the end of that permit or as long as two years, whichever comes first, Mailman said yesterday.

At some point the federal government is going to issue regulations on

how the CNMI transitional worker program will run, he said.

"We have been told that if people do not qualify for a U.S. visa and they have a job then they will be able to transit to this system," he said, adding that the system would provide each participant with a local status in place of a visa.

Mailman said the system may preserve the workforce until 2014, at which point another transition may allow the program to survive even longer.

"It's not going to be as drastic a drop as we expect but there will be some changes," Mailman said. "Depending on the fees that the government charges, it is likely that most of the workforce will survive."

Kara noted yesterday that the size of the workforce is not entirely determined by immigration laws.

"In general I think that the state of the economy will be more of a factor in the number of foreign workers than the federalization of immigration," Kara said.

GUEST

From Page 1

cost of living on the islands is an added incentive, she said.

"There will be some who will leave the island but most will prefer to stay," said Villazor during a presentation on family-based and employment-based immigration law Wednesday night at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The CNMI government has opposed the idea of granting "green cards" to guest workers on the argument that these workers will immigrate to the U.S. mainland once they are given a more permanent status.

During Wednesday's presentation, Villazor tackled issues that ranged from immigration petitions based on marriage to U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and petitions filed by relatives who are U.S. citizens, to sponsorships by employers.

United Workers Movement acting head Rabby Syed said the presentation provided a clear understanding of the issues their group has been working on, especially on the Immediate Relative matters.

Villazor, who teaches law at the Hofstra University and is a former Saipan resident, said there are a lot of humanitarian reasons to help people stay in the CNMI and she urged guest

workers to petition the U.S. Congress through CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan for some kind of legislation to address these issues.

"I also urge you to collect information and submit these information to the Department of the Interior. There are a lot of ways to improve the law and I would suggest that you do this now," she said.

Villazor said that she herself learned about some individuals whose status are not clearly established within the bounds of the law, like children of guest workers who were brought in by parents who have been on island for 20-30 years now.

"There must be some kind of bill to address these concerns," she said. "You have a right to become citizens, too."

The U.S. federal government has a total of 675,000 immigrant quota each year, including 480,000 for family-based, 140,000 for employment-based and 55,000 for diversity. On the other hand, there are a total of 140,000 visas available yearly for employment-based immigration, which include priority workers, members of professions holding advanced degrees or persons of exceptional ability, professionals and other workers (10,000), and special immigrants.

The presentation was sponsored by the Coalition for the Recognition of Ethnic American Minorities.

GOVT

From Page 1

Retirement Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon confirmed yesterday that only two autonomous agencies have paid their premiums for the Worker's Compensation Program, which provides insurance coverage to government employees in case of accidents or fatalities.

Aguon said only the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. have secured insurance coverage for their employees.

Aguon said the Fund has been communicating with the government—which is classified as an employer under the program—since November last year to give it the opportunity to procure its own private insurance for its employees as protection against possible job-related accidents and injuries.

"Almost all government employees are now considered at risk..." Aguon told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that this month the Fund will send out a third "notice" to government agencies.

He said the initial two notices were issued in November 2008 and April this year to over 200 government employers under the program. Aguon admitted that nothing has changed with the situation since then.

Saipan Tribune learned that the

wealth. The three islands constitute the "Islands Unit" in the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument established by Presidential Proclamation on Jan. 6, 2009.

Rep. Sablan had recently said he will put on hold any congressional action on the submerged lands bill until the CNMI leadership reaches a consensus on the issue.

In their joint position, Fitial, Reyes and Palacios said that, once the bill is enacted, the people of the CNMI will have the option of exercising full control over the submerged lands surrounding these three islands or deciding to include those submerged lands within the monument under co-management with federal agencies.

They noted that the presidential proclamation committed the federal government "to providing the CNMI with this option and the legislation expressly provides that it does not amend, repeal, or otherwise alter the proclamation."

LEADERS

From Page 1

sion, Reyes informed his colleagues that the joint position was reached during a meeting with Fitial yesterday.

"I hope that because this has always been a unified position among the leadership of the CNMI, our representative in Washington will submit this [legislation] to the floor of the U.S. Congress," the Senate president said.

He said they urged Sablan to include their letter of support in the congressional record.

In their joint letter, the CNMI leaders said they support the bill based on their understanding that it will give the CNMI the same ownership rights over submerged lands as are possessed by Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

They said this would include the submerged lands around the three northernmost islands in the Common-

HALF OF SAIPAN WATER WELLS FIXED

CUC rehabilitates 69 water wells in 2008

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp., despite challenges experienced in previous years, made significant strides in the rehabilitation of water wells on Saipan in 2008.

In a water quality report released by the agency this month, it disclosed that a total of 69 wells were rehabilitated last year—a significant improvement compared to the agency's previous performances.

However, it said the results

of these improvements would only be seen gradually in the next years.

According to CUC water supervisor Alan Lebria, these 69 rehabilitated wells were mostly in the Isley area, Capital Hill, Koblerville, Dandan, Sablan Quarry, and As Lito areas.

The rehabilitation work forms part of the first phase of a project funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and spearheaded by the CNMI Water Task Force.

Lebria said there are over 140 wells on Saipan, all of which

need rehabilitation.

For the project's next phase, he said CUC targets to work on the remaining wells, although available funding may cut the desired number.

"That's the plan...to cover the remaining wells in the second phase. However, we may also cut the number to at least 70," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that work is expected to begin in the next few months.

Funding source

The lack of funds was a major obstacle in implementing this task in previous years, according to CUC.

Saipan Tribune learned that

completing the rehabilitation work on all 140-plus wells depends on federal assistance that can be tapped for the project. CUC is using as justification the U.S. District Court stipulated order to bring the CUC water and wastewater systems into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act that regulates drinking water, and the Clean Water Act that governs wastewater systems.

Besides the rehabilitation of wells, the agency also initiated the merging of its water and wastewater divisions last year to allow for both increased flexibility and reduced costs to repair water and wastewater infrastructures.

The stipulated order details over 60 specific improvements, each with a set deadline that CUC must achieve or it will face fines of up to \$5,000 a day.

The stipulated order presents CUC with a tremendous challenge to meet the many requirements and the agency cited that trained and dedicated staff is one factor that helped improve its services.

However, the agency believes that the continuous progress in compliance with the stipulated order rely mainly on proper planning, adequate funding, and support from the government to guide CUC in joining the rest of U.S. in hav-

ing 24-hour water and wastewater services that complies with all applicable standards.

Water quality supplies

CUC also reported that every year, its water division spends \$5.9 million for water quality supplies and \$126,000 for chlorine supplies to treat the water.

It said the water quality laboratory operates on an annual budget of \$548,000.

In 2008, CUC said additional testing was done to know the levels of nitrate at many wells.

It was also last year when the periodic testing for toxic pollutant in the Sadog Tasi wastewater was achieved.

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Senate revises House's budget cap at \$150.5 million

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate adopted yesterday the House's concurrent resolution that caps the Fiscal Year

2010 budget at \$162.82 million, with an amendment to reflect the available resources at \$150.5 million.

Senators eliminated an item in the House concurrent resolution

to reflect the total budgetary resources for FY 2010 at \$150.5 million—as identified by the Fitial administration—and not \$148.81 million.

All six senators present in the

session—Pete Reyes, Maria Frica Pangelinan, Paul Manglona, Luis Crisostimo, Jude Hofschneider, and Joseph Mendiola—voted for the amendment.

The senators were actually

planning to recall their rejection of the House's concurrent resolution so they can make an amendment.

But Senate President Reyes met with House Speaker Arnold Palacios and House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Yumul during a recess

during which Yumul informed Reyes that the House has not officially transmitted the Senate's action that rejected the concurrent resolution.

Reyes informed the senators that with this development, the senators can go ahead and make the appropriate amendment.

This prompted Pangelinan to move for the amendment.

As submitted by the Fitial administration, the House resolution caps the FY 2010 budget at \$162.82 million. Of this amount, only \$148.81 million is available for general government operations.

Last July 1, the Senate rejected the House's concurrent resolution, mainly due to a new provision for an additional \$1.69 million obligation.

The new provision that the House inserted last week represents the 30 percent hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent alcoholic beverage container tax the government is being required to pay the Retirement Fund.

After receiving the concerns of some House members, Yumul amended his resolution to reflect an additional government obligation of \$1.69 million.

In yesterday's session, Pangelinan said they rejected the House's concurrent resolution in their last session because of the insertion.

Pangelinan said they had a discussion with Yumul and also met with acting Finance secretary Bob Schrack yesterday morning.

The senator said they wanted to make sure that the concurrent resolution does not put the Executive Branch or the Legislature in a situation where it will mandate that this \$1.6 million be appropriated when it is already distributed at the expense side.

"It is in the best that we eliminated the amendment made by the House and we worked with the administration on how best to address the expense distribution now as amended by the governor in their 2010 budget. Because regardless of whether we included the \$1.6 million to the Retirement Fund, somebody has to take the cut and, at this point, we are not now in the position to decide who should really get the cut for this," Pangelinan said.

She underscored the need to make things consistent with Fitial's request and placing the burden on the administration to resolve the distribution of the expenditures as submitted in the 2010 budget.

"We need to stick to the total resources as submitted by the administration and address the expense side of the distribution based on the Compact Impact shortfall from \$5.1 million to \$1.2 million," she said.



Pangelinan

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Taxi group urges visa waiver for Chinese, Russians

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan City Taxi Association wants the federal government to continue allowing Russian and Chinese tourists to visit the CNMI.

Through its president Rabby Syed, the association wrote a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano yesterday to express the group's concerns on this issue and to urge the federal government to include these two tourist groups in the visa waiver program for Guam and the CNMI.

The group explained that

Saipan remains a favorite destination for people throughout Asia, despite recent economic problems have seen a reduction in the traditional tourist markets of Japan and Korea.

Because of the emerging markets from Russia and China, Saipan is able to weather these economic storms because these visitors are currently enjoying visa free access to everything that the CNMI can offer, the group said.

In his letter, Syed reminded

Napolitano that the tourism markets from China and Russia would be severely restricted under the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.



Syed

The group said that excluding the Russians and Chinese from the visa waiver program would be a stumbling block for these visitors to come to Saipan.

Syed said the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program has no provision to allow Russian and Chinese visitors to continue enjoying easy access to the

Commonwealth.

"As a taxi driver, I see firsthand the positive impact that Chinese and Russian tourists are making in our economy," Syed told Napolitano.

He said these tourists represent a large chunk of the CNMI's business and the loss of these two markets will ruin the livelihood of anyone working in the tourism industry.

"We are asking for your help in ensuring that the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program will continue to allow Russian and Chinese visitor to easily enjoy access to our vacation market," the letter states.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 10, 2000

CDA issues stern warning to borrowers

While consistently stressing that it discourages the practice of foreclosure of properties by delinquent borrowers, the Commonwealth Development Authority last week warned that it may be forced to forfeit properties of clients whose outstanding loans have not been performing in over two years. CDA Board Chair John S. Tenorio said the government-controlled lending agency has already instituted flexible repayment terms to provide borrowers the convenience of paying their monthly amortization at an amount they can afford but some clients have persistently failed to serve their payment terms. "There are loans that are already considered non-performing because the borrowers have not come forward for the long period which indicate that they don't have plans to pay us back," Mr. Tenorio said.

OIA to help CNMI lure new airlines

Office of Insular Affairs Director Ferdinand Aranza has pledged to continue assisting the Northern Marianas government in attracting other airlines to service the islands, but said such effort depends on the market conditions. OIA, which has jurisdiction over the CNMI, has been approached by the Commonwealth to draw support from federal agencies, particularly the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration, to press its demand for direct flights to Saipan from key Asian cities. Mr. Aranza, who visited the island last week, said his office has been "working very hard behind the scenes" with these agencies to encourage more direct flights to the CNMI.

July 10, 2001

50 Pepero supporters defect to Covenant

Fifty key officials of the Committee-to-Elect-Pepero have defected to the Covenant Party, boosting the chances of Covenant standard-bearer House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial in the November polls. Covenant Party chair Eloy Inos confirmed the defection, saying this was a direct result of Lt. Gov. Jesus Sablan's decision to withdraw from the gubernatorial race. He was quick to point out, however, that this does not mean that Sablan is endorsing the candidacy of Fitial or that the lieutenant governor is now joining the Covenant Party.

Due to funding woes, senator foregoes 3 staff

The shortfall in funds at the Legislature has claimed its first casualties. Three employees of Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero were given termination notices yesterday, leaving the senator with only one staff member. "I feel bad but what can I do? This is due to the budget situation. I must go with it even if it hurts," said Victorino N. Igitol, one of those who were given until August 7 to pack up and leave. The two others were not identified and were unavailable for comment. Igitol, 58, has been with Guerrero for a year and six months already. "I have to look for another job. We were briefed about this already last week but I haven't told my family yet," he said.

July 10, 2002

Halong slows down, gains strength

As tropical storm Halong approaches the Marianas region, the Emergency Management Office said it has slowed down its forward movement while gaining wind strength, which makes this weather disturbance feared to be more devastating than typhoon Chata'an. As of 7pm last night, EMO Director Rudolfo Pua said Halong has a maximum sustained wind of 65 miles per hour gusting up to 80 miles per hour, bearing an almost-typhoon strength. At about 4pm Monday, the EMO reported that its strength was just about 46 miles per hour gusting up to 58 miles per hour. Emergency response teams are bracing for this, even if Halong's slowed forward movement has delayed projections that it would hit the Marianas possibly by tonight.

Mayor declares Rota a local disaster area

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona has declared the island a local disaster area in the wake of Typhoon Chata'an and has asked Gov. Juan N. Babauta to request President George W. Bush to make a similar declaration on a national level. In line with this, Babauta has asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment of the island to verify the destruction and estimate the amount needed to bring Rota back to its feet. Anthony M. Calvo, the Emergency Management Office's federal programs coordinator and lead planner for federal grants, said the EMO prepared the request yesterday.

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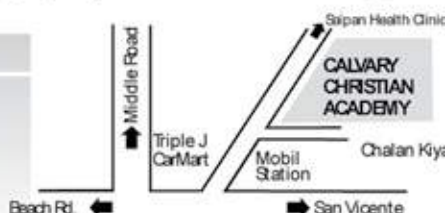


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EDITORIAL

Freedom vs the firewall: The Senate can help fend off authoritarian censorship

From Twitterers in Tehran to bloggers in Burma, citizens living under authoritarian regimes depend upon free access to the Internet for information, coordination and the ability to make themselves heard. That's why oppressive governments devote so much effort to on-line censorship: They, too, recognize the power of information to promote freedom. But some independent groups are pushing back against their control.

The indelible images and powerful stories that have emerged from Iran in recent weeks have been made possible by the efforts of a few volunteer experts running a makeshift system of patchwork servers. The Global Internet Freedom Consortium, a small, non-governmental organization, provides access to almost 1 million users daily and, according to recent statistics, to more than 90 percent of anti-censorship traffic from China and Iran. Its software allows users to evade online censors by connecting to a remote server that switches IP addresses nearly once a second to avoid being traced. But increased demand for the Internet amid recent turmoil has been overloading the consortium's servers just when access is most needed. For the peaceful online revolution to continue, congressional support is necessary.

Before the Senate Appropriations Committee is a bill that could provide access to 100 million distinct users every day. Dedicating \$50 million in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill to Internet freedom could allow millions who live in autocratic societies access to the Internet. Internet freedom has long been a stated congressional priority — the 2008 appropriations bill included a commitment to provide “anti-censorship tools and services for the advancement of information freedom in closed societies.” Now is the time for Congress to put its money behind its words.

For every dollar the United States spends to guarantee access, oppressive regimes must spend thousands to put up walls and barriers. Once there are enough holes in a firewall, it crumbles. The technology for this exists. What is needed is more capacity.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Tina vs. AGOliath

You have a front seat, friends, for a mismatch that promises to be longer than the recent 5-set Roger Federer vs. Andy Roddick match at Wimbledon. It is the Christina-Subversive-plan vs. Who's-the-man! No, this is not a Thai kick-boxing tourney. It is actually a battle of wits and of stamina to stay the course.

Who's-the-man from the Attorney General's Office seems to be playing the political game of “Delay! Delay! Delay!” before the November elections. His pronouncement judges Judge Wiseman as not wise enough in adjudicating tiny Tina's OGA suit to have Governor Fitial divulge the source of payments to the lawyers on the government's suit against the federal government on the federalization of immigration and labor.

Those interested in the finer points of law in this ongoing battle can Google the subject. There are ample sites that discuss the matter in more details. My interest here is the big picture so that my befuddled mind gets a whiff of where the wind is blowing.

Uncle Ben sues Uncle Sam. Check. In my name and those of my fellow citizens as the GovCNMI. Check. But, we-the-people reps decided Uncle Ben cannot use public funds, and that, perhaps, more than half of us do not think that we should sue in the first place. The split mind of the common people lends enough support to squeaky Legislator Tina who, as a responsible citizen aware of the provisions of the Open Government Act, asked the Governor to please tell us how this suit of ours is being paid for.

The GovCNMI suit. Uncle Ben claims that local ‘self-determination’ as provided for in the Covenant that ushered the political union between the CNMI and the U.S. of A is the issue. Framed in the understanding of Howard P. Willens, a volunteer counsel to the Governor, who is suspected of being the brain behind the suit, self-determination has a particular historical usage. A lawyer friend assured me that if Howard is involved, he is “reluctantly” so. Not so! On the contrary, he has his passion and rational mind behind this one.

Howard and partner Deanne C. Siemer did us all a favor by producing a scholarly work in their *National Security and Self-Determination: United States Policy in Micronesia (1961-1972)*. To me, self-determination refers to a declaration of self-government by a colony to its colonial masters. It is a weaning away from what was a relationship of dependence. Self-determination, as in the case of India, was an act to excuse the British masters from the subcontinent's halls of government. For colonial America, it was a revolt from unjust practices of a sovereign over the ruled, creating methodologies to determine its own common destiny.

The description of the Willens-Siemer book states: “the United States recognized that its non-fragmentation policy conflicted with the right of self-determination of the Northern Marianas

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

people and agreed to separate status negotiations with them.” The non-fragmentation policy was an agreement of former colonizers post-WW II to honor the geographical delineations left by the colonial masters to define a political entity. The intent was hardly noble; Rwandan Hutus and the Tutsis is an example on how disastrous the policy was.

Imperial Japan's Micronesia was one entity. The 50-some members of the newly formed United Nations were yet to divest themselves of their colonies, particularly those in the African continent. President Kennedy wanted the U.S.-administered Trust Territories in the Pacific to be close to Hawaii, and for national security purposes, mulled their joining the Union as part of that State.

Self-determination in the CNMI context was a decision away from the independence-leaning Marshall Islands and Palau, and the Associated States model of the Cook Islands promoted by New Zealand. The NMI voted to join Guam. Self-determination was a desire for closer union with the United States.

“Self-determination” in common usage, in my view, is when someone leaves home to be on one's own. The CNMI hung on to Uncle Sam's tailcoat, which at the time, with the Vietnam debacle and the growing rapaciousness of Pea Eye toward the U.S. bases, promoted a classic divide-and-conquer maneuver, creating factions among the various political units in the Trust territories, frustrating an entity from negotiating with more power as a single voice.

There are those who characterize politically independent Tina's squeaky election as an aberration. She barely made the bottom of her District's last seat. She is without a law degree, and charged often with squeaking through and around the parliamentary procedure up the hill, but she aims to broaden public discussions on issues before bills that address them are voted on. To be railroaded into conformity by the dominant party is not her common suit.

She does her homework; she is focused. She is not easily bullied into acquiescence, and definitely, not easily silenced. She articulates her thoughts well, and she does not hesitate to test the waters, both in the District and beyond. In a real sense, she practices the art and

See TINA on Page 14

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Fantastic plastic

The great thing about living in interesting times is that they are so, well, interesting.

If you have a credit card, or you're thinking about getting one, things have gotten a whole lot more interesting. The Commonwealth is largely a subset of the U.S. economy on this note, at least as far as card-holders are concerned, which is why the big changes in the U.S. will mean big changes for you, too.

You and I haven't been surprised by these changes. Here is what I said on Oct. 26, 2007:

"There is a U.S. credit blow-up on the way, and some people are going to probably get locked out of the markets, or knocked down into having to deal with the shady set, as things take their course. Since I suspect that most credit cards used by Saipan residents are issued by U.S. companies, I also expect the coming U.S. crunch manifest locally as well."

And, yes, I was certainly right about a looming crunch. Here's a riff from Bloomberg.com, March 3, 2009: "Financial institutions may slash \$2 trillion in credit-card lines in the next 18 months."

These days, and for the past year or so, the entire financial press has been peppered with stories of U.S. credit card lines being cut, and/or interest rates being raised, and this will apply to the Commonwealth as much as the mainland. Of course, this makes sense, since the overall financial meltdown has dramatically increased the risks of extending credit, especially in the non-secured context of most credit cards.

Given the debt situation in the mainland, related credit markets will do goofy things in the near term, but in the long run, the age of

easy, cheap credit for the middle class is probably over.

The wealthy will have access to credit, since they have the sophistication to use it wisely (that's why they're wealthy) and the connections to get it (that's also why they're wealthy). The poor will have access to small-scale, low-quality credit, stuff like payday loans or high-interest debt on cheap furniture and TVs. But in the middle, the days where the average salary-man can load \$85,000 onto plastic will be gone.

Which is to say, for the average person, the credit window is closing, maybe a little, maybe a lot. For those who haven't paid attention to this realm, now might be a good time to give it some thought, at least for those who might want a credit card in the foreseeable future.

In this context, "credit" is a slippery term. One chief advantage of plastic is that it is more liquid, and more safe, than cash for many transactions. The desire for such a tool is called "transactions demand," which is why many of us carried plastic in the first place.

Many of Saipan's residents are at a disadvantage in this gig. For one thing, credit cards probably aren't as commonly used as in the mainland, which gives folks less of an experienced base of peers to consult. After all, you can merrily live on Saipan without a credit card. But venturing outside of the CNMI is very problematic without fantastic plastic.

And, incidentally, though I don't have any statistics for the Commonwealth, 59 percent of U.S. small businesses depend, to some extent, on credit cards to finance their operations. I can't think of one business, or one business owner, in my experience

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



in the CNMI that doesn't use credit cards as part of their daily routine, ranging from buying gasoline to getting supplies to going on business trips.

Anyway, for those of you interested in this stuff I will post a couple of links on my blog, since links are wretchedly ungainly in print. Heck, I'm feeling a bit wretchedly ungainly myself these days.

If you're looking for some good news, we can consider this: From what I've seen, the Commonwealth's business sector is probably a lot less reliant on sales from U.S. issued credit cards than our mainland counterparts are. That sweet moolah from Uncle Sugar, which is what keeps the Commonwealth going, is going to float the CNMI economy regardless of credit card issues. And as for what remains of the CNMI tourism industry, it's logical to assume that tourist spending is more a function of the tourists' native credit markets than U.S. markets.

Still, this is a topic that is important to many of us, and I'm keeping an eye on it.

How does the eye work?

I believe that the human eye is not only one of the most beautiful organs of the body, but also one of the most beautiful structures in the entire universe. I feel lucky that I spend my days looking at this amazing, delicate and intricate structure.

To get a good understanding of what is going on in your eyes, I'd like to help you understand how a normal eye works. This is especially important if you have diabetes, or if you have any eye problems.

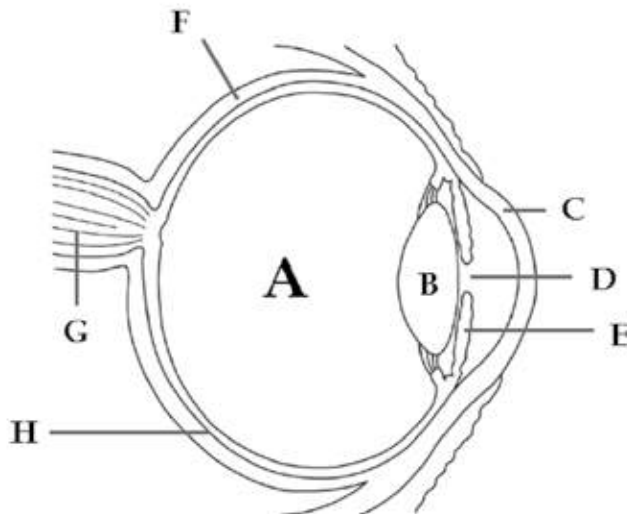
I tell my patients that the eye is like a hollow ball. Light has to come from outside the eye and penetrate into the deep layers of the eye where it is turned into an electrical signal and sent to the brain. Let's take a closer look at this process with the help of this diagram of the eye. This is a picture of the eye that has been taken from the side and it has been opened so that you can see the structures inside the eye.

As light reaches the eye, the first structure that it strikes is the cornea (C). The cornea is the clear covering over the brown or blue part of the eye. Of all the surfaces of the human body, the cornea has an exceptionally unique quality: it is perfectly clear. It allows the light to reach the deeper layers of the eye. It also serves as a sort of window, allowing us to look into the human body. It's the only place

where we can peer into your body without entering it.

Right behind the clear cornea is the colored part of the eye, which is called the iris (E). If the iris was a solid sheet of tissue, the light could go no farther, but luckily the iris has a hole in the middle of it. If you look in the mirror, or into someone's eye, you can see this black hole, which is called the pupil (D). You may also notice that the pupil changes in size. When you look at a bright light, the pupil gets smaller to limit the amount of light getting into the eye. When you are in a dark environment, the pupil gets bigger, to allow more light in.

Just behind the iris is the natural lens of the eye (B) and like the cornea, the lens is also clear, and light passes through it. You'll notice that the cornea and the lens are both curved, and because of their curve, they bend the rays of light as the rays pass through them. In fact, the lens, for the first half of your life, is very flexible, and it can change its shape, allowing you to adjust the focus, and in most circumstances, zooming in on things that are close or far. But as you reach age 40, the lens gets less flexible and cannot focus as easily on close objects. That's why you need to get reading glasses to help you see near objects clearly after age 40.



By **DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

David Khorram, MD is the co-founder and medical director of Marianas Eye Institute. He is the author of the book, World Peace, a Blind Wife, and Gecko Tails, which is available on Amazon.com and at Marianas Eye Institute. Dr. Khorram can be reached by email by visiting www.MarianasEye.com, or by phone at 670-235-9090. © David Khorram, 2009.



After the light passes through the cornea, the pupil and the lens, it passes through a large empty space and lands on a thin layer of nerves and blood vessels that coats the inside of the eyeball. The "empty space" isn't really empty. It's full of a clear jelly called the vitreous, and so it's called the vitreous chamber (A). As you get older, the vitreous can form clumps, and when you see those clumps, they look like objects floating in your vision. These clumps are called vitreous floaters. They are very common, and people describe them as looking like spider webs, or bugs, or strings with beads. But sometimes, floaters can be a sign of more severe problems, especially in people with nearsightedness or diabetes.

After the light passes through the vitreous, it strikes a thin layer of nerves and blood vessels that coats the inside of the eye. This layer is called the retina (H). It's an amazing structure and it's the area of the eye that can be most severely affected by diabetes. Next time, we'll look at the delicate retina.

Letter to the Editor

The misinformation just keeps on coming

It has come to my attention that a member of our local blog community believes it is necessary to scare the people of the Marianas with all forms of imagined threats from foreign fishing activities. His personal misinformation campaign appears to be based on a (complete?) lack of knowledge related to the recent federal approval of the CNMI's marine conservation plan. The news story was carried by the *Saipan Tribune* on June 11, 2009 and titled "Feds approve 3-year marine conservation plan for CNMI."

I should first state that this letter is not about my opinion on foreign fishing issues—I did not express any. Nor is it about whether the CNMI government is advocating foreign fishing—I don't know and I do not represent the government. It is more about getting correct information out to the public concerning the recent renewal of the CNMI's marine conservation plan.

I found the news story factual, informative, and very straightforward. The article focused on federal approval of the CNMI marine conservation plan and did not discuss anything about foreign fishing opportunities opening up in the CNMI. Unfortunately, it

was the subsequent distortion of facts and public dissemination of misleading information by the Pew CNMI Coordinator that I found disturbing. All of a sudden the simple action of federal approval for a required tri-annual renewal of a marine conservation plan that guides how revenue from foreign fishing activities would be spent in the CNMI was transformed into:

"The *Saipan Tribune* carries a story today that unearths the fact that NOAA has approved opening the Exclusive Economic Zone around the Northern Mariana Islands to foreign fishing." 3

"...NOAA has approved opening the Exclusive Economic Zone around the Northern Mariana Islands to foreign fishing." 3

"...and how Dr. Jane Lubchenco is going to end overfishing in American waters. Meanwhile, we just opened our waters to foreign fishing vessels." 1

"If you think that it is because you were listening to the guys that successfully just sold your waters off to foreign countries." 3

"Last week it was announced that the *Wespac* proposal to open up CNMI waters to foreign fishing vessels was approved by Gov-

ernor Fitiaf and NOAA. Yet six months later they are trying to sell off our waters to foreign countries." 2

"The *New York Times* recently published an editorial about overfishing. As you read it, keep in mind that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands recently approved a plan to open up the United States Exclusive Economic Zone surrounding our islands to foreign fishing." 1

First of all, foreign fishing in our Exclusive Economic Zone can only be authorized through the signing of an international fishing agreement known as a Pacific Insular Area Fishing Agreement as allowed in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The CNMI has never had a PIAFA and it is my understanding that none are under development for the CNMI.

Second, the act of renewing (i.e., federal approval) the CNMI's marine conservation plan by NOAA did not suddenly open up our EEZ to foreign fishing. In fact, our EEZ is not any more open

See **THE MISINFORMATION** on Page 14

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- Joaquin H. Borja

Tinian House of Representative

- Edwin P. Aldan (Incumbent)

Northern Islands Mayoral

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RALLY

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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COVENANT PARTY
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Single source

I am very disappointed in the level of reporting that went into an article that was published in the July 8 paper. "NMI gov opposes Sablan motion in OGA issue" does little to explain both sides of the debate. Looking over the article, you'll find that the all

the information comes from a single source: the Office of the Attorney General, a source that undoubtedly will give only its side of the issue. Where are the quotes from Rep. Sablan? Her responses to the arguments of the OAG? The issue of federalization is a very important is-

sue to the CNMI, and it's very important that both sides of the debate be portrayed accurately, especially by you guys, the press. That is your job, is it not?

Henry Chan
San Vicente

TINA

From Page 10

discipline of citizen's self-determination.

Perhaps, the scholarly Wilens-Siemer duo may enlighten us of the political and even philosophical issue at hand, and why a hardly self-determining and definitely unself-reliant Commonwealth government is suddenly

arguing that its self-determination is being taken away.

Intimations that Tina is being goaded by outside forces, perhaps, by the World Uyghur Congress that allegedly masterminded the recent rioting in Urumqi, will be forgiven. The only thing Turkic about Tina is her *mestiza* mother's likeness to residents from Caucasus and Aram. Forgive our *non-sequitur* here.

Tina's point, and ours also, is rather simple. Who is paying for the suit made in our name? Yes, we would like to know. Meanwhile, AGOliath for the Executive Branch bellows like it was the aggrieved party. The judiciary spoke, will speak again. November is coming. The red, white, blue, and green are on parade. It is time for the we-the-people to air its views, and be heard.

THE MISINFORMATION

From Page 10

to foreign fishing than the time of the CNMI's first marine conservation plan in 1999. This original plan was subsequently reviewed and again approved in 2002, 2005 and most recently, 2008 as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Third, the marine conservation plan is an action plan that *only* addresses how revenue generated from foreign fishing activities would be spent by the local government—nothing more, nothing less. It does not authorize foreign fishing activities and is *not* an indicator that the CNMI government is actively pursuing foreign fishing.

The following brief overview is offered:

What is a Pacific Insular

Area Fishery Agreement or PIAFA?

A PIAFA is the official document (i.e., International agreement) that authorizes foreign fishing activities in Pacific insular area EEZs. The PIAFA provision [Section 204:104-297] was added to the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 1996 and is only valid for the Pacific insular areas (i.e., CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and the Pacific Remote Island Areas).

This agreement is negotiated by the Secretary of State and must have concurrence from the Secretary of Commerce, and the governor of the Pacific Insular Area to which the PIAFA applies. In addition, the WPRFMC must be consulted during the development process. Prior to PIAFA approval, the fisheries council must make a determination that such an agreement *will* not adversely affect the fishing activities of the indigenous people within the Pacific insular area that is considering a PIAFA.

Local control over any proposed foreign fishing activities within the EEZ of Pacific insular areas is assured by the Magnuson-Stevens Act through veto power granted to the governor over any PIAFA within their jurisdiction.

Prior to 1996, all revenue generated from any foreign fishing agreement was to be deposited in the U.S. Treasury. PIAFAs are designed so that any foreign fishing revenue flows back to the Pacific Island territory and *not* into the U.S. Treasury. How these revenues are spent is governed by a marine conservation plan developed by each Pacific insular area.

What is a marine conservation plan?

The Magnuson-Stevens Act [Section 204: 104-479 (4)(A)] requires each Pacific insular area to develop a marine conservation plan that identifies a list of prioritized projects or programs that addresses specific conservation needs of the insular area where foreign fishing may be authorized. The sole purpose of the plan is to provide detailed guidelines for the expenditure of any revenue received from foreign fishing activities via a PIAFA. The marine conservation plan ensures that all funds are spent appropriately, according to the approved plan and not usurped by the local government for non-conservation projects. As required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, these plans are to be updated, reviewed, and approved every three years by the WPRFMC and National Marine Fisheries Service.

The CNMI's newly approved marine conservation plan contains 12 objectives that are consistent with the existing Marianas archipelago fishery management plans. To meet these objectives, the CNMI has identified and prioritized 22

projects for potential funding.

Although a marine conservation plan is required prior to approval of a PIAFA, the recent federal approval of the CNMI's marine conservation plan *can not* and *does not* authorize any foreign fishing activities within our EEZ. Additionally, the recent *renewal* of the CNMI's marine conservation plan, the third iteration since the 1999 plan, was simply to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

What if foreign fishing is allowed in the CNMI?

Should foreign fishing ever be authorized in our EEZ, those vessels would have to toe the line as far as fishing to the same standard as U.S. vessels in terms of permits, reporting, observer deployment, VMS, bycatch and protected species mitigation, area/seasonal closures, and a myriad of other regulations. With respect to commercial fishing activities, the U.S. fishing fleet is one of the most regulated in the world. Not surprisingly, no foreign fishing entity has even bothered to negotiate a PIAFA because it's unlikely they could get their vessels to match U.S. vessels in terms of the high standards we require of U.S. fishing vessels. I am not claiming that foreign fishing will never occur in the CNMI EEZ, it's just that foreign entities won't be knocking the door down to be the first in line for a PIAFA.

Should foreign vessels ever be authorized to fish in our EEZ, they will not be allowed free rein over the taking of our marine resources and their actions will be tightly controlled and monitored.

With that being said, I will leave you with one last quote: "Imagine watching Taiwanese fishing vessels mining our waters from the shores of Beach Road. That is what these new regulations are going to allow."

2 As with other sensationalized claims the Pew CNMI Coordinator has made on this issue, the above statement is utter nonsense. His campaign of creating an atmosphere of fear in our community is irresponsible. It is just another underhanded attempt at trying to scare people into supporting his (i.e., Pew Environment Group) push to expand the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument boundaries out to 200 miles and the implementation of additional draconian no-fishing regulations.

I truly appreciate someone taking the time to learn about the issues and then voicing their opinion in an open and honest manner, whether I personally agree with them or not. This approach provides an opportunity for rational community discussion and educated decisions based on facts. Based on his blog postings, it is obvious that the Pew CNMI Coordinator does not believe in this approach.

John Gourley
Navy Hill, Saipan

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9 beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on nine sites on Saipan and Managaha and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico Dump, American Memorial Park, Garapan Fishing Dock, Sugar Dock, Chalan Kanoa District 2 Drainage, and PIC beach on Saipan and Managaha site No. 04 contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator

bacteria—enterococci—that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

Samples from Tinian did not exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards and were assigned a green flag.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 sites on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (PR)

Pesticide amnesty set next week

The Pesticide Amnesty for Saipan, Rota and Tinian will take place starting Thursday, July 16, until July 18.

The collection is only one day for each island. On Saipan, the collection will be at two sites: the Kagman Agricultural Station and Koblerville Fire Station; on Rota the collection will be at the Sunset Villa property on Friday, July 17; and Tinian on Saturday, July 18.

"The purpose of the amnesty is to collect pesticides that require disposal due to age, condition of containers, contamination, no labels, unregistered or cancellation," said Reina Camacho, amnesty coordinator. The reason is to allow the community an opportunity—at no cost—to dispose of unwanted pesticides and pesticide containers.

"If you have a container that has lost its label or has been damaged, this is the type of waste we are hoping to collect

at the amnesty," said Camacho. Further, if you are unsure of what chemical a container used to store, we highly recommend that you dispose of the container at the amnesty.

DEQ encourages farmers and businesses who apply pesticides such as golf courses, hotels, and termite and pest control businesses to participate in this one time opportunity. This program is free. In addition, DEQ says that transportation permits will not be required for the purpose of transporting pesticides as part of the amnesty collection.

The amnesty is a project funded by the U.S. EPA Region 9 Pesticide and Superfund programs.

DEQ collaborated with the DLNR—Division of Agriculture, NMC-CREES, DPW-Division of Solid Waste and the Mayor Offices of Saipan, Tinian and Rota to organize the local efforts for the disposal program. (DEQ)

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Vanuatu embarks on major water supply project

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—Prime Minister Edward Natapei handed a US\$137,000 check to Chief Iaukalpi of Yanumakel last Thursday in a ceremonial handing over to mark the beginning of the biggest ever water project on East Tanna. This water project will quench the thirst of over 3,000 people on East Tanna, particularly John Frum village Sulphur Bay and Yanumakel, Ianimaha, Iarkei, Ipikangian, Imale, Napuas, Ienaula Secondary School, and Louiapeng School and the mini hospital in Whitesands. Over 500 students from schools in the area will benefit from the project.

Fiji Retirement Fund to sell poor investments

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—The Fiji National Provident Fund has listed three major tourism developments as part of its "non-performing" assets. And it says immediate action would be taken to sell these off. A statement said immediate action would be taken to recover members' funds that FNP had invested in several major tourism properties as part of a review of its investment policies. These include the Grand Pacific Hotel project, the Savusavu Harbourside and the Momi Bay developments.

Two American Samoa officials under probe

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa's Public Safety Commissioner has placed two senior officials on annual leave while they are under investigation. The two are the Deputy Commissioner Filifaatali Mike Fuiava and the Manager of the Office of Motor Vehicles, Marie Ripley. Commissioner Tuaoilo Fruean said in a special order yesterday that based on allegations from a criminal investigation he is placing the two on annual leave until the investigation is completed. The move is connected to the issuance of a license to a foreigner using someone else's birth certificate.

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2X4X20 - \$6.10	2X4X20 - \$9.60
2X6X12 - \$6.70	2X6X12 - \$10.00
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R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	8,999
R09-003B	2007	CAMRY HYBRID	AUTO	16978	SILVER	ABZ-299	25,299	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	46775	WHITE	ACE-236	11,899	

GM CARS

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R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999	7,499

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U08-038T	2001	MIITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	6,999
U09-045T	2003	VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLE 2DR	AUTO	48440	GREEN	ABX-844	6,999	

GM VAN

R09-009F	2003	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	142674	WHITE	BUS-1079	5,999	
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TOYOTA SPORTS UTILITY

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Regs for Fund's student beneficiaries to be changed

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Existing policy governing student beneficiaries of the CNMI Retirement Fund program may soon be changed following admission that a few related cases are being encountered by the Fund trustees.

Fund administrator Mark A.

Aguon said the management intends to get a clear guidance and interpretation on the term "full-time" student as provided in the statute.

Saipan Tribune learned that under current regulations, if a retiree dies, 50 percent of his/her pension goes to the spouse and up to 50 percent goes to the children, and the Fund can pro-

vide up to 16.3 percent each for up to three children.

However, the law also says that a full-time student classified as a pension beneficiary can avail of the benefits up until his/her 22nd birthday, instead of the 18 years mandated for other children-beneficiaries.

"If you're a full time student you're entitled to re-

ceive the benefits up to 22 years and the issue we have here is the term 'full-time' students," Aguon said.

He said the law is unclear if the required "full-time" student must meet the full time status just from day one or through the last day of the school term.

"What if the student dropped one class? Are we going to

provide the student the benefits because the law only says it's for full-time student? That's one issue we want to clarify," Aguon said.

During Tuesday's regular meeting, the board deferred action on the proposed amendment to the regulation and referred the matter to the operations and personnel committee for further review.

Aguon said it is not the Fund's intention to penalize students

who are receiving the benefits but to get a clear mandate.

"We're not trying to penalize students who go to school...we just don't want to give away the fund to somebody whose time is up to receive it," the administrator explained.

Of the approximately 90 student-beneficiaries they have, Aguon said only less than a dozen related cases have been encountered by the management.

Pacific response to pandemic flu examined

MADANG, Papua New Guinea—Pacific Island Health ministers looked yesterday into the Pacific response to pandemic influenza A(H1N1) to date, the challenges met and critical areas to be addressed in mitigating the impact of this pandemic in the region.

Several cases of influenza A (H1N1) have been confirmed by a number of Pacific Island countries and areas in recent weeks, including Guam and Palau, and it

is anticipated that the number of cases will grow significantly over the coming weeks and months.

As the pandemic has developed, Pacific Island countries and areas have put in place measures to delay influenza importation and minimize in-country spread. These measures include screening of travelers to detect cases, provision of information and advice to travelers and the community, surveillance and monitoring of influenza-like

illness in the communities, and isolation of suspected and confirmed cases.

Once in-country transmission is confirmed, they will need to focus on mitigation measures, which include social distancing, individual hygiene and cough etiquette. As well, health services will have to be able to deal with increased numbers of influenza patients.

WHO and SPC have also intensified their support to Pacific

Island countries and areas in a number of areas such as laboratory testing capacities, provision

of guidelines, education and communication materials, additional supplies of antivirals and

personal protective equipment for countries without metropolitan support. (SPC)

French Polynesia confirms 5th swine flu case

PAPEETE, Tahiti (Tahitipresse/PIR)—French Polynesia has confirmed its fifth case of Influenza A/ H1N1, Health officials announced Tuesday afternoon in Papeete.

This fifth influenza A case is an "imported case" from Chile, a Health ministry press release states.

The person had flu symptoms and went to see a doctor, the press release adds.

This new influenza A case has been sent to the Tahiti Public Hospital and now has a Tamiflu treatment.

Some persons who have been in contact with this patient will also be monitored.

Since May 9, there has been 17 suspect cases in French Polynesia, but only 5 of them have been confirmed influenza A cases.

Two influenza A cases were US visitors and the two others were French Polynesian residents returning from vacation in New Zealand.

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DEALS OF THE WEEK

 2007 Kia Rio LX STOCK # 76210724 \$11,995^{00*}	 2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4 STOCK # 4UC14321 \$14,995^{00*}	 2006 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4 STOCK # 6KA88167 \$23,995^{00*}
 2006 Kia Sorento LX 4x4 STOCK # 65643378 \$14,995^{00*}	 2005 Kia Sportage LX 4x4 STOCK # 57126092 \$13,995^{00*}	 2005 Kia Rio STOCK # 56395736 \$7,995^{00*}
 2007 Ford Ranger King Cab STOCK # 7PA31120 \$16,995^{00*}	 2005 Honda Element EX 4x4 STOCK # 5L000315 \$16,995^{00*}	 2007 Kia Rio LX STOCK # 6292373 \$11,995^{00*}
 2005 Nissan Frontier STOCK # 5C430810 \$21,995^{00*}	 2007 Honda CR-V LX STOCK # 7C073538 \$18,995^{00*}	 2005 Honda Civic DX STOCK # 5H558540 \$12,995^{00*}
 Joseph (Jay) Cabrera Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562	 2007 Nissan Xterra S 4x4 STOCK # 7C506448 \$21,995^{00*}	 2007 Ford Fusion SEL STOCK # 79127178 \$18,995^{00*}

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Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply •
On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.
* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.


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Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation, the world's leading petroleum and petrochemical company, with affiliates operating throughout the world. This is your opportunity to join a dynamic company and be part of a team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

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Duties will include assisting with safe operations in Saipan Terminal in areas of receiving, storage and handling of petroleum products; performing tasks related to tanker loading, tank to tank transfers, tank gauging, facility preventive maintenance and repair functions, product sampling and testing, quality control checks and complete basic documentation associated with safety, controls and regulatory items associated with Fuel Facility Operations.

Preference will be given to applicants with experience handling petroleum products as well as maintenance and repair. General operational experience in industrial applications is also welcome.

Candidates must be physically able to work outside and perform the following functions in the performance of their assigned duties: frequent walking, prolonged standing, bending, general lifting, moving, or pulling of moderate loads (<30 lbs) and climbing stairs.

The position will be based at Saipan Terminal in Saipan. Remuneration will commensurate with the successful applicant's relevant skills and experience.

If you believe you have the qualities required for the position, please submit your resume on or before Friday, July 24, 2009.

Attention to:
Human Resources Manager
Mobil Oil Guam Inc.
642 East Marine Corps Drive
Hagatna, Guam 96910
(Fax) 671-648-3786
Email: katrina.terlaje@exxonmobil.com

Federal law requires that we verify the identity and work eligibility of all new hires. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. **Equal Opportunity Employer**

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Win a trip to the Northern Islands

A member of the Friends of the Monument has agreed to pay for a local young person to visit the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument and several of the Northern Islands later this month. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, wants a local person to experience visiting the uninhabited islands to the north. The donor hopes that the winner will share their experience with their families, friends, and classmates through photos and

a daily journal.

The Friends of the Monument are holding an essay contest to select which young person gets to go on the trip scheduled for July 20-30.

The topic for the essay contest is "Why I want to visit the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument." The deadline for submissions is Monday, July 13, at 5pm. Essays must be in Microsoft Word format and e-mailed to marianamonument@gmail.com. There is a 1,000 word limit for the es-

say. Applicants must be between 18-25 years old.

The winning essay writer will earn a seat on a boat leaving for Maug on July 20, 2009. All transportation and food costs will be paid for by the donor. If for any reason the boat trip is canceled, the winner will have a seat on the next planned expedition.

The winner will be expected to keep a daily journal that will be published on the Friends of the Monument blog found at <http://marianamonument.blogspot.com>. (PR)

ON THE NET

<http://marianamonument.blogspot.com>

Kane Kosugi and diving magazine tour NMI



Martial artist and actor Kane Kosugi, center, is flanked by staff of the Marianas Visitors Authority and Japan's *Monthly Diving* magazine at a World War II peace memorial on Saipan. Kosugi and the magazine were in the Northern Marianas in June 2009 to prepare a 10-page feature on diving and other attractions in the islands. The article will be published this month.

This month's issue of Japan's *Monthly Diving* magazine is anticipated to feature 10 full pages highlighting the award-winning, year-round diving available in the Northern Mariana Islands.

A five-member entourage of the magazine, including martial artist and martial arts actor Kane Kosugi, was on Saipan on June 15-19, 2009, to capture the destination appeal of the island, both below and above water.

"The islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota continue to receive recognition for their underwater beauty. We're pleased that actor Kane Kosugi, through *Monthly Diving*, has chosen to help share that wonder with our Japanese market," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

Since 1983, Kosugi has appeared in various roles as a voice

actor for video games, stunt actor in movies, and character actor in both English-language and Japanese-language films.

In addition to two mornings of diving, the crew taped horseback riding at Marianas Resort & Spa, the natural fauna of Saipan Botanical Garden, and the Garapan Street Market. They visited Big Dipper ice cream parlor, Coffee Care restaurant, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan Seaside Bar & Grill.

The magazine crew also took in local scenic sites, including the seabird nesting grounds of Bird Island, the geological wonders and ancient Chamorro pictographs of Kalabera Cave, and a panoramic view of Saipan from atop the island peak of Mt. Tapochao.

Targeting male and female divers, *Monthly Diving* has a

circulation of 120,000 and has been published since 2001. The anticipated ad value is over \$60,000. (MVA)



Victim's Advocate services are available through Karidat

What is Family Violence?

It's the mistreatment of one family member by another.

Family violence includes:

Physical abuse

- Slapping, Hitting, Burning, etc.

Sexual abuse

- Rape, Incest

Emotional abuse

- Threats, Insults, Harassment

Neglect

- Poor Physical or Emotional Care

Family violence is a crime. It is a widespread problem in our society.

Some family members suffer from domestic violence and it hurts everyone involved. If this is happening in your family, you can get help by visiting Karidat Social Service or call our telephone #234-5248/234-6981 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am through 5:00 pm and after working hours call the Hotline at 234-5100. You can also visit the Karidat Social Services Office in Chalan Kanoa.

This project was supported by Grant Number 2007-VA-GX-0030 and 2008-VA-GX-0046 awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program, Office of the Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council.

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*2009 Honda Civic VP, retail price \$18,995.00 finance at 9.99% A.P.R. for 60 months with 20% downpayment. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. Some conditions apply. On approved credit. See dealer for details. While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy advanced birthday greetings to Uncle Robert ("Mr. Wonderful"), who is celebrating his birthday on Saturday. Greetings come from your stepdaughters Jen, Jeng, and JR.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday greetings go out to Josie Villanueva of Wushin Corp. May you have many more birthdays and more happiness to come. Greetings come from your family and friends.

Business

House Dems eye surtax on wealthy for health bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—An income tax surcharge on highly paid Americans emerged as the leading option Wednesday night as House Democrats sought ways to pay for health care legislation that President Barack Obama favors, several officials said.

As discussed in the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, the surtax would apply to individuals with adjusted gross income of more

than \$200,000 and couples over \$250,000, they added.

In addition, key lawmakers are expected to call for a tax or fee equal to a percentage of a worker's salary on employers who do not offer health benefits.

Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev., a member of the panel, said the proposed surtax on high-income taxpayers appealed to her and others as a way to avoid a "nickel-



Berkley

and-dime" approach involving numerous smaller tax increases. She added that other earlier options had fallen away, including an increase in the payroll tax.

Berkley and others cautioned that no final decisions have been made, either by the tax-writing committee or by the Democratic leadership, which hopes to have legislation drafted by Friday and through the House by month's end.

Aside from Berkley, officials discussed the private discussions only on condition of anonymity.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

IMF raises Asia 2009 growth forecast


BEIJING (AP)—The International Monetary Fund has raised its 2009 growth forecast for Asia's developing economies from 4.8 percent to 5.5 percent but cautioned that a sustained rebound will depend on recovery in developed economies. The Washington-based agency cited improved prospects for regional giants China and India. In a report Wednesday, it raised its 2009 growth outlook for China

by one percentage point to 7.5 percent and for India by 0.9 percentage points to 5.4 percent. "The upgrade owes to improved prospects in China and India, in part reflecting substantial macroeconomic stimulus, and a faster-than-expected turnaround in capital flows," the IMF said in a report on global growth. "However, the recent acceleration in growth is likely to peter out unless there is a recovery in advanced economies."


Oil pauses above

\$60 amid weak US gasoline demand

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices paused above \$60 in Asia on Thursday after dropping 17 percent since last week as rising U.S. gasoline inventories suggested crude demand remains weak. Benchmark crude for August delivery was up 48 cents to \$60.62 a barrel at midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Wednesday, the contract fell more than 4 percent, or \$2.79, to settle at \$60.14.



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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

MARIA A. TEREGEYO ("Trustor"), on or about June 6, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 6, 1984 under Document No. 84-881 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 494, containing an area of 745 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document Number 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$82,230.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.


The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.


Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

RICARDO P. CASTRO and LORENZA P. CASTRO (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 8, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 16, 1998 under Document No. 98-3276 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 011 G 685

Containing an area of 845 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plate No. 011 G 14 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, dated December 3, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$40,230.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.


The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.


Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

GUADALUPE O. BORJA ("Trustor"), on or about October 16, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 16, 1984 under Document No. 84-2185 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 017 D 35, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 017 D 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 4842, on the 11th day of September, 1975.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$69,630.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.


The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.


Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ELISA P. AQUININGOC/JESSE P. AQUININGOC (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 4, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 10, 1998 under Document No. 98-4068 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 008 T 114

Containing an area of 923 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 T 01 dated January 7, 1988, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 88-161, dated January 19, 1988, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$40,230.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.


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Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.


Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

DONNA Q. KAPILEO and DONOVAN K. TECHUR (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 16, 1999, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 23, 1999 under Document No. 99-2778 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 011 G 1091, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 20, the original of which was recorded 09 Dec 93 as Document No. 93-4288 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$38,130.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.


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Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.


Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ANTONIA T. TEIGITA/ EFRAIN T. TEIGITA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about August 1, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on August 1, 1984 under Document No. 84-1366 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 003 B 16, and Containing an area of 1,117 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 003 B 02, the original of which was registered with the Land Commission as Document 5979, on the 4th day of April, 1977.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$46,630.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

 **NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency**

Nation

US officials eye North Korea in cyber attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. authorities on Wednesday eyed North Korea as the origin of the widespread cyber attack that overwhelmed government Web sites in the United States and South Korea, although they warned that the complexities of the massive Internet make it difficult to identify the attackers quickly.

The powerful attack that stretched on for days over the holiday weekend targeted doz-

ens of government and private sites, and underscored how unevenly prepared the U.S. government is to block such multipronged assaults. While Treasury Department and Federal Trade Commission Web sites were shut down by the malicious software attack, others such as the Pentagon and the White House were able to fend it off with little disruption.

The North Korea link, de-

scribed by three officials, more firmly connected the U.S. attacks that began July 4 to the cyber assault Tuesday on government agencies in South Korea. The officials said that while Internet addresses have been traced to North Korea, that does not necessarily mean the attack involved the Pyongyang government.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they

were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

South Korea intelligence officials have identified North Korea as a suspect in those attacks and said that the sophistication of the assault suggested it was carried out at a higher level than just rogue or individual hackers.

U.S. officials would not go that far, and publicly declined to discuss who may have instigated the intrusion or how it was done.

Abortion pill used in a quarter of US abortions

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Roughly a fourth of American women getting early abortions last year did so with drugs rather than surgery, statistics show, as a new study reported improved safety in using the so-called "abortion pill."

Some experts predict the percentage of such "medical abortions," which offer more privacy than surgical termination at an abortion clinic or hospital, will rise even more due to the new study.

The research, done at Planned Parenthood clinics across the country, shows that a new way of giving pills to induce abortion virtually elim-

inated the risk for a rare but dangerous infection.

"This is the first really huge documentation of how safe and effective medical abortion is," said Dr. Beverly Winikoff, a professor of family health and population at Columbia University. "The technology is very good and very well used in this country, and probably will be used more and more."

Two pills are used to induce an abortion. The primary drug, Mifeprex, was first approved in the U.S. in 2000. Use has risen steadily, even though manufacturer Danco Laboratories LLC of New York hasn't promoted it and the drug can only be obtained at a clinic or doctor's office, not through

a pharmacy. Sales rose 16.5 percent last year, when about

184,000 American women used Mifeprex.

GOP candidates in Va., NJ wary of Palin

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Palin's decision to step down as Alaska governor was driven in part by her wish to help Republican candidates across the country, associates say.

But in New Jersey and Virginia, two states with competitive governors' races this year, the prospect of a visit from the party's 2008 vice presidential nominee has so far drawn a muted response from the GOP contenders there.

In Virginia, a historically conservative state where Barack Obama became the first Democratic presidential candidate

since 1964 to win, Republican Bob McDonnell said Tuesday his campaign had had conversations with the Palin camp but stopped short of saying whether he wanted her help.

In an interview with ABC-News.com, McDonnell called Palin a "good spokesman" and said he would welcome anyone who wanted to come to Virginia on his behalf. McDonnell, a former state attorney general, is in a tight race with Democrat Creigh Deeds to succeed outgoing Gov. Tim Kaine, a moderate who now chairs the Democratic National Committee.

ACROSS THE NATION

US students quarantined in Japan for swine flu

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A group of 20 students studying in Japan through the University of California, Davis, have been quarantined after two of their Japanese tutors were diagnosed with swine flu, a program coordinator said Wednesday. UC Davis summer abroad coordinator Kathy Cunningham said the students arrived in Kyoto on June 27 and were quarantined to a Kyoto dormitory on July 3. Japanese health officials are monitoring the group for symptoms. So far, no students have shown any sign of the disease. One tutor was diagnosed with swine flu on July 3 and the second was confirmed on July 5, Cunningham said.

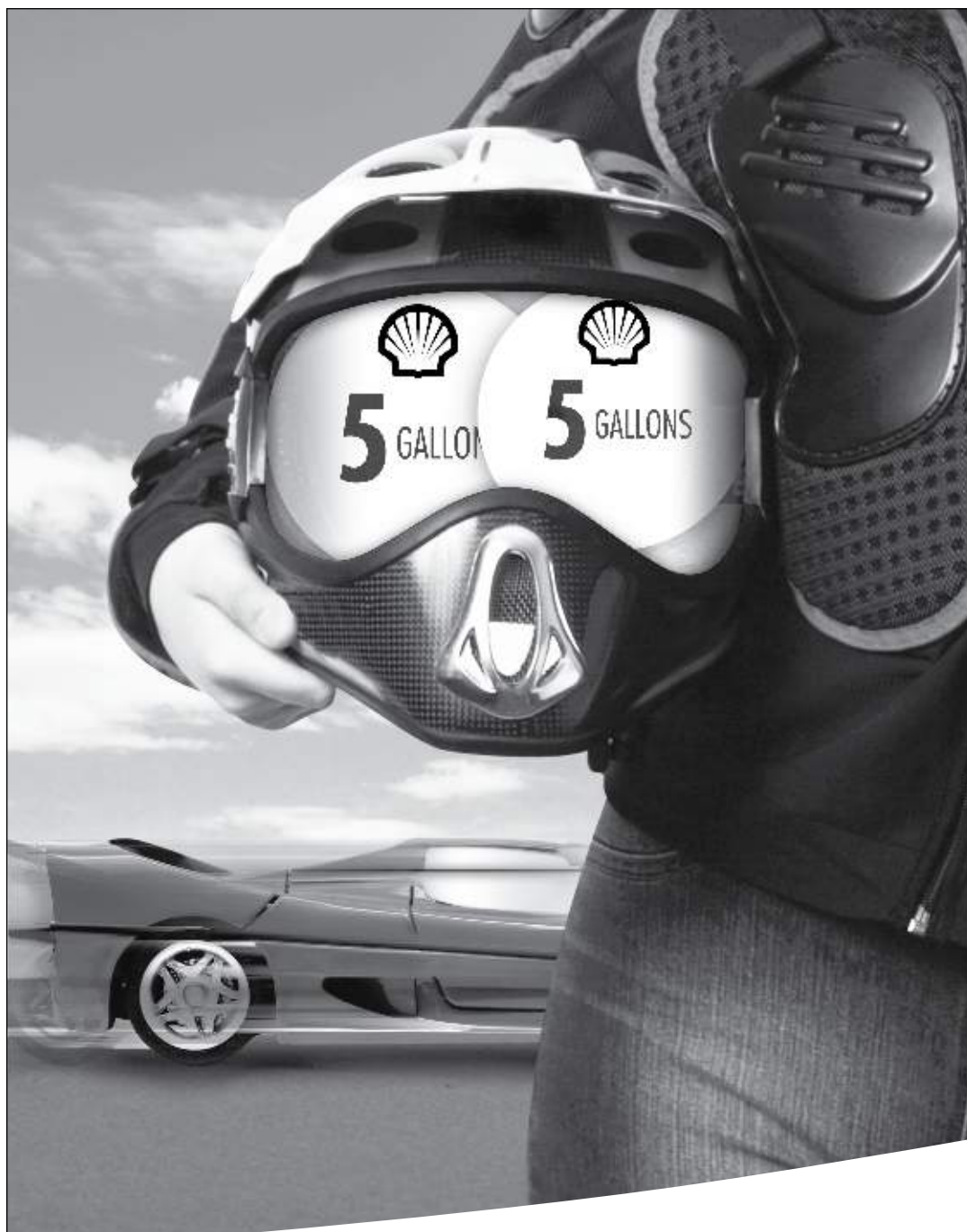
Ex-mistress's husband says Ensign paid severance

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The sex scandal engulfing Sen. John Ensign deepened Wednesday after his former mistress's husband revealed new details about the relationship, saying the Nevada Republican paid the woman more than \$25,000 in severance when she stopped working for him. Doug Hampton also provided a letter to the Las Vegas Sun that he claimed was a hand-

written apology from Ensign to Cindy Hampton, a former treasurer for the senator's campaign committees. "I used you for my own pleasure," the letter reads, later adding, "Plain and simple it was wrong; it was sin." The letter and Doug Hampton's interview with a local television news show mark another embarrassment for Ensign, a 51-year-old Christian conservative who abruptly came forward last month and confessed to the affair. In addition, a severance payment could pose campaign finance or ethics issues for the Republican.

8-year-old SC girl shot twice in head, killed

CHESNEE, S.C. (AP)—A man put an 8-year-old girl in a headlock Wednesday and shot her to death, then shot himself in the stomach, authorities said. The girl's father is dating Ricky Lee Blackwell's estranged wife. Spartanburg County deputies said Blackwell shot the girl twice in the driveway of a home where he had taken her and his estranged wife to swim and play. The home is in Chesnee, about 60 miles southwest of Charlotte, N.C. Several adults and children saw the shooting and pointed officers toward Blackwell, investigators said.



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Asia

Chinese armed police watch over a calmer Urumqi

URUMQI, China (AP)—Security forces kept a firm grip on the tense Xinjiang capital Thursday after days of ethnic violence that killed 156 people, and alarmed Chinese leaders vowed to deal firmly with those behind the attacks.

Crowds of Han Chinese, China’s dominant ethnic group, cheered as trucks full of police and covered in banners reading “We must defeat the terrorists” and “Oppose ethnic separatism and hatred” rumbled by. The minority Uighurs became far more fearful about talking to reporters.

The region’s worst ethnic violence in decades has already forced President Hu Jintao to cut short a trip to Italy, where he was to participate in a Group



A man and child look out from an apartment window as Chinese security forces pass by in Urumqi, China, Thursday, July 9, 2009.

China tries new openness with foreign media

BEIJING (AP)—When riots broke out in the restive west this week, China took a different tack with foreign journalists: Instead of being barred, reporters were invited on an official tour of Xinjiang’s capital.

The approach, a stark reversal from last year’s handling of Tibetan unrest, sug-

gests Chinese authorities have learned that providing access to information means they can get their own message out, experts said.

“They are getting more sophisticated in how they’re handling foreign and domestic media coverage of a crisis. It used to be in a time of major crisis,

you get a blackout... Now the approach is to get the government’s viewpoint out there,” said Rebecca MacKinnon, a journalism professor at the University of Hong Kong.

The State Council Information Office, the government’s main public relations arm, extended their highly

unusual invitation to the foreign media Monday, just one day after the worst ethnic violence in decades left 156 dead and 1,100 injured in the regional capital of Urumqi. Their goal? “To help foreign media to do more objective, fair and friendly reports,” the agency said in a statement.

of Eight summit and hold talks with President Barack Obama. It was an embarrassing move for a leader who wants to show that China has a harmonious society as it prepares to celebrate the 60th anniversary of communist rule in October.

Public Security Minister Meng Jiangzhu, who is in Urumqi (pronounced uh-ROOM-chee), has said “key rioters should be punished with the utmost severity.”

The hundreds of troops that

had camped out in the central part of Urumqi for the past three days were gone, but paramilitary police still guarded People’s Square and military helicopters flew over the city of 2.3 million.

Xinjiang—a sprawling, oil-rich territory that borders several Central Asian countries—is home to the Uighurs, largely Muslim, who rioted Sunday and attacked Han Chinese after holding a protest that was ended by police.

Early results show Indonesian president winning

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia’s president swept elections to win a second term, preliminary results showed Thursday, but his opponents refused to concede defeat and called the vote undemocratic.

The National Election Commission gave incumbent Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono 62 percent in its first preliminary figures, based on more than 18.7 million ballots counted after Wednesday’s vote. That would put him well beyond a 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff in September.

Former president Megawati

Sukarnoputri was running second with 28 percent, and Vice President Jusuf Kalla third with 10 percent.

The commission did not give a figure for how many ballots were cast in all. There were 176 million registered voters.

The preliminary results backed findings of an independent pollster, Indonesian Survey Circle, that conducted quick counts at 2,000 polling stations nationwide after the voting and had Yudhoyono winning 60 percent of the vote.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thailand reports 2 more swine flu deaths

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand’s Public Health Ministry is reporting two more swine flu-related deaths, bringing the country’s total to 13. Deputy Public Health Minister Manit Nop-amombodi said Thursday the latest victims were a 52-year-old man who died in Bangkok on Wednesday

and a high school student who died in northeastern Mahasarakham province Thursday. He said that the man suffered from a kidney infection prior to contracting the virus, weakening his immune system. The ministry also reported 211 new cases Wednesday, bringing the country’s total to 2,925. According to latest figures Monday from the U.N. World Health Organization, there have been

94,512 swine flu cases worldwide and 429 deaths. Elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region, Australia has reported 10 deaths, New Zealand five and the Philippines one.

Afghan blast kills 25 people

KABUL (AP)—An Interior Ministry spokesman says the massive blast in central Afghani-


stan has killed 25 people, including 21 civilians and four policemen. Zemerai Bashary says the powerful blast also destroyed nearby shops lining the road in the central Logar province. The provincial police chief, Mustafa Khan, says the blast happened after a truck filled with timber tipped over on the main road connecting Logar province with

Kabul to the north.


Pakistani officials: Suspected US strikes kill 45


ISLAMABAD (AP)—Suspected U.S. unmanned aircraft launched two attacks against militants loyal to the head of the Pakistani Taliban on Wednesday, killing at least 45 in the

latest in a barrage of strikes against a group also being targeted by the Pakistani military, intelligence officials said. The convergence of U.S. and Pakistani interests in the South Waziristan tribal region suggests the two uneasy allies were cooperating in the strikes, making it harder for Islamabad to protest them publicly as it has in the past.




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp





NOTICE OF SALE



**UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

ESTHER A. CASTRO and WAYNE T. ALDAN (collectively “Trustor”), on or about September 20, 2001, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 2, 2001 under Document No. 01-2164 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 330 R 21 containing an area of 838 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 330 R 02, dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder’s File No. 92-858, dated March 16, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$31,830.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.


The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier’s check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.


Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.


/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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NOTICE OF SALE



**UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

DONALD C. CAMACHO and ROSALINDA ULLOA (collectively “Trustor”), on or about December 20, 2004, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 23, 2004 under Document No. 04-3035 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot 001 C 57, (part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of Lot 001 C 15, which was part of Lot 001 C 13, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, TD 697), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 11, the original of which was recorded 05 JUN as Document No. 98-1697 at Commonwealth Recorder’s Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$68,230.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.


The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier’s check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.


Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



**NOTICE OF MEETING
OF THE
CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO), hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2009, at 1:30 P.M. at the CRM conference room, 1st floor Morgen Building, Oleai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

a) Call to Order

b) Roll Call

II. OTHER MATTERS

ONE START Applications:

a) GPPC - Shipbuilding Project

b) Juan T. Lizama – Ground Clearing and Grading Project in Puerto Rico

c) Bernard R. Cruz – Ground Leveling and Extraction Project in Tanapag

Update on Marpi Brownfields Project

III. ADJOURNMENT

All persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. [Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the CRM Agency Officials may vote to meet in executive session.]

JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director

World

Honduras first lady leads fight for Zelaya return

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduras' first lady has emerged as the public face of the movement to restore President Manuel Zelaya to power, a role she took against her husband's wishes and despite her continuing fears for her safety.

Xiomara Castro told The Associated Press on Wednesday that she was so afraid the Honduran military would shoot her on sight after soldiers whisked Zelaya out of the country in his pajamas, she fled to the U.S. Embassy.

Though she still sleeps in hiding, she vowed to take to the streets daily in protest of the June 28 coup that ousted her husband. The family of a pro-Zelaya demonstrator slain by soldiers on Sunday urged her to get involved—over Zelaya's objections.

"He told me that my presence could cause more problems, more persecution on the family. But I insisted," Castro said, while trudging up a steep road with 3,000 Zelaya supporters, who blocked traffic on a route connecting the capital of Tegucigalpa with a highway to Nicaragua.

G8 opens to developing market economies

L'AQUILA, Italy (AP)—Leaders of the exclusive club of eight industrialized nations open up their forum Thursday to the five fastest developing market economies—Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa—tacit admission that their leadership alone is not enough to fix the world's major problems.

The so-called Group of Five, making their fifth straight appearance at the annual summit, albeit as invited guests, will discuss climate change, development aid, global economic growth and international trade with their Group of Eight counterparts—all topics touched on by G-8 leaders meeting on their own Wednesday.

■■■■■
L'AQUILA, Italy (AP)—Targeting global warming, President Barack Obama and other leaders of the world's richest industrial countries pledged Wednesday to seek dramatic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to slow dangerous climate change. Setting a marker for success, they agreed for the first time that worldwide temperatures must not rise more than a few degrees.

However, their goals are non-binding, and it's far from clear they will be met. The wealthy nations failed to persuade the leaders of big developing countries to promise to cut their own fast-spreading pollution, unable to overcome arguments that the well-established industrial giants aren't doing enough in the short term.

Obama and his counterparts from the other wealthy Group of Eight nations agreed that global temperatures should be kept from rising by more than 2 degrees Celsius, or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, in the fight against weather changes caused by mankind.

The G-5, along with special invitee Egypt, on Wednesday urged a resumption of the stalled Doha trade round, noting that the developing countries were particularly damaged by protectionist trends emerging from the global economic crisis. Stronger multilateral trading, they said, would play a role in promoting development and reducing poverty.

"We are concerned with the present state of the world economy, which submits the developing countries to an inordinate burden resulting from a crisis they did not initiate," the G-5 said in a statement after a preparatory meeting Wednesday. Concluding the Doha Round would aid "the restoration of

confidence in the world markets and inhibit emerging protectionist trends," the G-5 said.

Among the G-8 leaders, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy have been particularly vocal that the G-8 needs to be expanded to better represent the world's population and economies. Sarkozy told reporters on Wednesday that a possible formula would be to have the G-8 meet within the structure of a G-20, major economies taking the lead on ways out of the economic crisis, or a G-14, combining the industrialized nations and emerging economies forums.

In their statement, the G-5 called for greater inclusion in

international decision-making, noting its members' positive contributions to tackling global challenges.

On the issue of aid, Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi said Wednesday that the leaders have decided they need to change the way they help Africa, and introduce a mechanism of accountability to review efforts. "We want our funds to go to precise investments, schools, buildings and so on," Berlusconi told reporters.

On the issue of aid, Berlusconi has said the G-8 was looking into establishing an agricultural development fund for Africa, to shift away from giving handouts to the poor to helping them grow their own food.

WORLD BRIEFS

Clerical discontent challenges Iran leader

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's supreme leader has imposed his will on the streets with security forces that crushed mass protests over the country's disputed election. But he faces an unprecedented level of behind-the-scenes political discontent among the Muslim clerics who form the theological bedrock of the Islamic Republic. The bitterness could represent a deeper, long-term challenge to the rule of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The outright rejection by some clerics of election results that Khamenei ruled valid breaks a basic taboo against criticizing the man who in the philosophy of the Islamic Revolution literally represents God's rule on earth. Khamenei's political strategy since taking his position in 1989 has been to maintain a consensus among competing factions. But now to preserve power he may have to rely on a far narrower base of hard-line ayatollahs—and more than ever before on the security services, particularly the Revolutionary Guards, the elite protectors of the system.

Mexico outraged by killing of anti-crime activist

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico reacted to the slaying of an anti-crime activist with outrage Wednesday. Congress called for a minute of silence,

television commentators demanded justice and activists pledged to step up their fight against crime despite persistent threats. Public-safety groups say Benjamin LeBaron was the first anti-crime activist in Mexico to have been murdered in retaliation for his work. "It is essential that those responsible ... be punished," the non-governmental group Mexico United Against Crime said in a statement. "We cannot allow organized crime to intimidate, threaten and kill those brave enough to denounce them."

Vatican replaces cardinal in Holocaust controversy

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI on Wednesday replaced the cardinal responsible for lifting the excommunication of a Holocaust-denying bishop as part of the Vatican's effort to reconcile with an ultraconservative group. The commission that had been in charge of the effort will now be under the authority of a powerful office seen as close to the pontiff, the Vatican said. Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, who had been leading the reconciliation, is stepping down after reaching the customary retirement age of 80, the Vatican said. Hoyos had been head of the Pontifical "Ecclesia Dei" Commission, which was charged with healed the schism with the ultraconservative Society of St. Pius X.



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1st Prize	\$3,000
2nd Prize	\$2,000
3rd Prize	\$1,000
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The "CASH RAFFLE PRIZE" presentation will be held at a later date, the winner of this prize will be contacted not more than seven days after the event for details.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The ROTARY CLUB OF SAIPAN reserves the right to cancel ONLY the CAR or CASH RAFFLE and refund the money of those who have purchased tickets if a minimum of 5,000 tickets are not sold seven days prior to the scheduled event/drawing date. Prior notice will be posted should ONLY the raffle event be cancelled. The LAS VEGAS NIGHT EVENT will be held regardless.

All winners are required by law to file tax form W-2G at the CNMI Tax Office. THANK YOU for your continued support!!!

Off the Wall

Turtles crawl on runway, delay flights at JFK

NEW YORK (AP)—A runway at John F. Kennedy International Airport was shut down briefly Wednesday morning after at least 78 turtles emerged from a nearby bay and crawled onto the tarmac.

Grounds crews eventually rounded up the wayward reptiles and deposited them back in the brackish water farther from airport property, but not before the incident disrupted JFK's flight schedule and contributed to delays that reached nearly 1 1/2 hours.

"Apparently, this is something the tower has experienced before," said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim

Peters. "I guess it's the season for spawning."

The invasion began unfolding, slowly, at around 8:30 a.m., when an American Eagle flight crew reported seeing three turtles while taxiing out for departure. Before long, a chorus of pilots was radioing the tower to report turtles either on the end of a runway that juts out into the water, or approaching on the grass.

The FAA halted flights for about 12 minutes shortly before 9 a.m. while some of the turtles were cleared away, then quit using the runway entirely after getting new reports of "massive numbers" of turtles on the tarmac, Peters said.

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey spokesman John Kelly said airport crews gathered up the turtles in about 35 minutes.

He identified the turtles as Diamondback terrapins, a species common to Jamaica Bay, which surrounds the airport. The turtles appeared to be about 8 inches long and weigh 2 to 3 pounds each.

Jets hit turtles a few times each year at JFK, usually in the final days of June or earliest days in July, according to the FAA's wildlife strike database. There have been no recent reports of the strikes causing any damage to an airplane.

Drunken man shocks Spain with generosity

MADRID (AP)—A British man who arrived at a Spanish airport on Wednesday after having too much to drink was taken into custody—not for bad behavior but for being too generous. Turns out the tourist had recently received an inheritance, and he had started to give away 52,000 (\$72,285) he was carrying in cash and travelers checks.

Spain's Interior Ministry said

people at Son Sant Joan Airport in Palma de Mallorca first alerted police because the disheveled man "looked like a tramp" and "had a disagreeable smell."

Police determined he was giving away thousands of euros, without realizing what he was doing.

"Having arrived at the airport terminal he began handing out cash while laughing," a ministry

statement said.

The ministry said the man—identified as James B.N., from Manchester, England—was taken in custody and soon persuaded to put his wallet away and fly home.

The British Foreign Office was informed but consular officials did not have to intervene to coax the 59-year-old man back aboard a return flight.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Md. woman arrested twice in 5 hours for DUI

OCEAN CITY, Md. (AP)—Police arrested a Woodbine, Md. woman twice in five hours on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol. Police said a 20-year-old woman was swerving across lane markers and failed to stop at a stop sign about 2:15 a.m. Friday. When officers stopped her, police said she was driving under the influence of alcohol. She was released on DUI and motor vehicle charges and almost five hours later, police saw her driving again. Maryland law prohibits anyone from driving within 12 hours of a DUI arrest. Police stopped her again and charged her with DUI and other offenses. She was held on \$25,000 bond.

Dimwitted thieves steal fake cell phones in Mexico

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—Call it the case of the dead cells—both telephones and the ones in the brain. Employees at a Telefonica Movistar cell-phone store in Morelia, Mexico say they arrived Tuesday morning to find that the store had been broken into. An examination of the shop revealed the only items missing were hollow replica phones for display that are completely useless for making calls. Employ-

ees say the clueless thieves overlooked real cell phones and cash in another part of the shop. Store owners nonetheless reported the theft to local police, who are investigating.

Thorny thief snips 100 rose blooms from Maine park

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Police in Maine's biggest city are on the lookout for a thief with an eye for roses. Gardeners at Portland's Deering Oaks Park noticed Monday that someone had snipped 100 blooms from the rose bushes. The same thing happened last year but not on the same scale. The Deering Oaks Rose Circle features 600 rose bushes, and horticulture supervisor John Shannon calls it a "jewel to the city of Portland." Shannon tells The Portland Daily Sun he's saddened to see the poaching. Police are boosting patrols.

NH man arrested for the 153rd time to plead guilty

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP)—A man has been arrested for the 153rd time, this time after he was accused of punching someone in the face over the weekend. Paul Baldwin, 49, told a judge Monday he plans to plead guilty to the assault, along with trespassing and alcohol charges. He said he's had a long battle with alcohol and was trying to correct the problem during his most

recent one-year jail term, which ended last week. The Foster's Daily Democrat newspaper said Baldwin's record dates to 1984 and includes 152 other arrests, eight trespass orders, 75 citations, four Social Security aliases and 17 name aliases. Prosecutor Rena DiLando said she didn't have time to read Baldwin's full criminal record because it's so long.

Ohio woman, 75, accused of beating fawn to death

EUCLID, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio woman who found a fawn in her flower garden has been accused of beating it to death with a shovel. Dorothy Richardson, 75, was charged in a warrant with animal cruelty at her Euclid home near the Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation, a wooded park where deer, foxes and other wildlife roam. Animal control officer Ann Mills requested the warrant. She said "everybody's very upset" about the fawn's June 15 death. Richardson hasn't appeared in court. She told Cleveland's WKYC-TV she was afraid of the fawn and used a shovel to try to make it move. She said after it died she put it in a box and took it to the curb on trash day. Euclid's cruelty to animals charge is punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Science & Technology

Tech 101: How a denial-of-service attack works

By **JORDAN ROBERTSON**
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Investigators are piecing together details about one of the most aggressive computer attacks in recent memory—a powerful "denial-of-service" assault that overwhelmed computers at U.S. and South Korean government agencies, companies and institutions, in some cases for days.

How does this type of cyber attack work? And how can people make sure their computers are safe?

Here are some questions and answers about the attack.

Q: What is a "denial-of-service" attack?

A: Think about what would happen if you and all your friends called the same restaurant over and over and ordered things you didn't even really

servers respond well. Hijacked PCs, on the other hand, are programmed to send way more traffic than a normal user could generate on his or her own.

Q: How often do these attacks happen?

A: People try denial-of-service attacks all the time—many government and private sites report being hit every day. Often the assaults are unsuccessful, because Web sites have ways of identifying and intercepting malicious traffic. However, sites really want to avoid blocking legitimate Web users, so more often than not, Internet traffic is let through until a problem is spotted.

Denial-of-service attacks are noisy by design, and they intend to make a statement. They're not subtle attempts to infiltrate a Web site's defenses, which can be much more insidious be-

traffic flowing into the site, and if there's enough of it, preventing it from ever reaching the site's servers.

Another approach is to flag suspicious individual machines that seem to be behind an attack, and ban any traffic from them from reaching the site.

That can often be difficult, though, because criminals use "proxy" computers to route their traffic, masking the source of the original requests. Proxy computers are often other infected computers that are part of a botnet.

Q: Is there usually evidence of who the culprits were? Or is the nature of the attack such that it leaves few fingerprints?

A: It's usually easier to stop a denial-of-service attack than it is to figure out who's behind it. Simply identifying where the malicious traffic is coming from won't get investigators very far, since the infected PCs that get roped into a botnet are owned by innocent people who don't know their computers are being used for nefarious purposes.

Pat Peterson, a security researcher and fellow at Cisco Systems Inc., says sophisticated attackers have also been adding a more subtle approach to evade detection.

Instead of directing huge amounts of traffic at a target site, they'll make more complicated requests one at a time that eat up more of the site's computing power, like trying to log in using bogus usernames and passwords. If enough of those requests are made, on a site that requires a lot of computing power, the effect can be the same, and the site gets knocked out.

Q: If these attacks make use of compromised computers corralled into a "botnet," should I be worried about whether my PC is one of them? What could I do to prevent that or fix it?

A: If your computer is being used in a denial-of-service attack, you're likely to see a significant slowdown, because your processing power is being siphoned for the assault. But there aren't always obvious signs that your computer has been infected.

So the best thing is to focus on prevention, namely by having up-to-date antivirus software. In particular, make sure your antivirus software gets updated over the next few days.

If you're concerned your machine might be infected, it's wise to run an antivirus scan. Many antivirus companies offer a free scan from their Web sites.



Kim Jae-pil, a police officer of the Cyber Terror Response Center under the National Police Agency, shows seized hard disks which were used for hacking at the agency's headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, July 9, 2009.

want. You'd jam the phone lines and overwhelm the kitchen to the point that it couldn't take any more new orders.

That's what happens to Web sites when criminals hit them with denial-of-service attacks. They're knocked offline by too many junk requests from computers controlled by the attackers.

The bad guys' main weapons in such an attack are "botnets," or networks of "zombie" personal computers they've infected with a virus. The virus lets the criminals remotely control innocent people's machines, which are programmed to contact certain Web sites over and over until that overwhelms the servers that host the sites. The servers become too busy to respond to anything, and the Web site slows or stops working altogether.

It's different from what usually happens when you try to access a Web site. Normally, you just make one request to see the site, and unless there's a crush of traffic from something like a big news event, the

cause that gives hackers access to whatever confidential information is stored there.

Often the attacks take a site out for a few hours, before Web site administrators can respond. What made the most recent attack notable is that it was widespread and went on for a while, beginning over the July Fourth holiday weekend and running into this week. It's not yet clear how the attack was able to last that long.

Q: Some organizations appear to have fended off these recent attacks, while other Web sites went down. How can this be?

A: The sites that went down probably were less prepared, because they are less accustomed to being hit or aren't sensitive enough to warrant extra precautions.

Popular Web sites, like e-commerce and banking sites, have a lot of experience dealing with denial-of-service attacks, and they have sophisticated software designed to identify malicious traffic. Often that's done by flagging suspicious

Windows 7 is on sale. Should you buy it now?

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft Corp.’s next installment of Windows doesn’t launch until October, but deep discounts on some versions are available through Saturday if you want to pre-order. Before pouncing on this deal, make sure it’s right for your PC.

There are plenty of reasons why you’d want Windows 7. It appears to be more stable—less prone to crashes—than previous versions of Windows. It’s less annoying than Vista, which could deluge users with security warnings and other nagging reminders. Windows 7 has a cleaner, simpler interface.

One thing that isn’t simple

about Windows 7 is the flavors it comes in. Microsoft said it tried to keep the options easy, but that didn’t happen. You still must choose from Home Premium, Professional or Ultimate versions. (There also are Starter and Enterprise, but neither are sold directly to consumers.)

The consumer versions come in two variations, an upgrade and a full version. If you already have a Windows computer, buy the upgrade. If you’re building a computer from scratch in the basement and don’t have an unused copy of XP or Vista that you’ve already bought, you’ll need the full version.

Retailers such as Amazon.

com Inc. and Best Buy Co. are taking pre-orders for the Home Premium upgrade and the Professional upgrade, for \$50 and \$100, respectively. In the fall, those will cost \$120 and \$200.

Here is advice on how to consider a Windows 7 upgrade, depending on various scenarios:

■ If you have Windows Vista Home Premium or Business, and you want the equivalent Windows 7 edition, pre-ordering the upgrade makes sense. You can trade up from Home Premium, or down from Business, with no extra hassle during installation. When your disk or download arrives Oct. 22, your PC will get a makeover, but your files,



In this screen shot provided by Microsoft Corp., a look at the upcoming Windows 7 is shown.

AP


programs and settings should remain intact. (Don’t tempt fate. Back up everything anyway.)

■ If you have Windows Vista Ultimate, you can pre-order the comparable version of Windows 7 for \$220. There is no tantalizing upgrade

deal and Microsoft won’t say whether it’s planning one.

■ If you have Vista Ultimate but you want a lesser version of Windows 7, you can do that, too, even though this “upgrade” will be a bit of a downgrade. Depending on whether you switch to Home Premium or Professional for Windows 7, you’d have to give up features like BitLocker, which protects data if the PC is stolen, or Windows XP Mode, which lets you run older programs that aren’t compatible with Windows 7.

If you miss those high-end features you can upgrade back to Ultimate later. Microsoft hasn’t said how much its “any-time upgrades” will cost, but for Vista, these prices ranged from \$140 to \$200.



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FOR CBP PROJECT NO. CPA-009-CBP

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The design services are to assist the CPA in preparation of its facilities at all airports and seaport on the three (3) islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the US Customs Border Protection (CBP).

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below: (This project is primarily an architectural type project)

- Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- A/E Design experience related to projects federally funded in whole or in part;
- Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the federally funded projects;
- The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for projects, and the firm’s professional integrity and competence; and
- Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable. Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 17, 2009**.


Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 25, 2009



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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services for four (4) loading bridges. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on **Friday, June 26, 2009**. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport”. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.


The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 25, 2009



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-08

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for general improvements to be made to the departure and arrival terminals at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to, electrical stub-out extensions aluminum storefront door and window system, sanitary sewer system, including grease trap interceptors, air-conditioning of VIP Lounge at new terminal, installation of rollup conveyor doors, replacement of automatic doors and aluminum storefront system at existing terminal building, lightning protection and grounding system, repainting work at existing terminal, baggage handling conveyor system, replacement of existing wooden fascia at the existing terminal building, replacement of roof tiles and waterproofing of existing terminal building roof, new furniture for departure terminal, renovation of restrooms at existing terminal building, renovation of storefront door leading to apron side at existing terminal building, general renovation to newly completed terminal departure building, and fencing of transformer area.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below: (This project is primarily an architectural type project).

- Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- A/E Design experience related to projects federally funded in whole or in part;
- Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the federally funded projects;
- The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for projects, and the firm’s professional integrity and competence; and
- Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable. Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 24, 2009**.


Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 25, 2009



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ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF PAINT SUPPLIES PROJECT NO. CPA-RIA-001-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Procurement and Delivery of Paint Supplies to the Rota International Airport.

The scope of work entails the purchase and delivery of new paint supplies for the terminal building at the Rota International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 19, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all shipping costs and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of New Paint Supplies for the Rota International Airport Terminal Building”. One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.


The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 17, 2009



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport Runway 07/25 Rehabilitation, Package II Phase II Project, AIP No. 3-69-0002-53/58, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

- Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Key personnel’s professional background and caliber and availability for the proposed services;
- Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI; and
- Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 10, 2009**.


Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
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EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 9, 2009



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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF WHEELCHAIR RAMP/LIFT PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Procurement and Delivery of three (3) new aircraft ramps, one each to the Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport and Rota International Airport.

The scope of work entails the purchase and delivery of one (1) wheelchair ramp/lift with the capability to and from an aircraft for each airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 19, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all shipping costs and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of Wheelchair Ramp/Lift to the Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport and Rota International Airport”. One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 18, 2009

Death and Funeral Announcement

CARLA MAE PANGELINAN BENAVENTE "Mae"

Born to Eternal Life: August 16, 1974
Called to Eternal Life: June 29, 2009

of Afetnas, Saipan was called eternal home by our Lord at the age of 34.

Predeceased by:

Maternal Uncle (†Pedro DLC. Pangelinan), Maternal Aunt (†Agnes P. Deleon Guerrero), Maternal Uncle (†Norbert DLC. Pangelinan), Maternal Uncle (†Francisco R. Pangelinan), Paternal Grandparents (†Fernando M. & †Faustina S. Benavente), Paternal Uncle (†Juan S. Benavente), Paternal Aunt (†Lydia B. Fujihira), Paternal Uncle (†George S. Benavente), Maternal Cousin (†Emery Joseph I. Pangelinan) & Mother-in-Law (†Maria T. Palacios)

Survived by:

Parents: Rufina C. Pangelinan & Francisco A. Ada
Antonio S. Benavente

Common Law: Lenard A. Bass Jr.

Children: Edward Anthony, Regina Judith, Maeyesha & Christopher Jay

Maternal Grandparents: Hilarion R. & Maxima DLC. Pangelinan

Godparents: James & Susana R. Cabrera / Eleuterio & Linda Palacios

Brothers/Sister/Spouse & Children:

Dennis John Ngeskabei & Linda Lizama (Daisy Ann & Peter Anthony), Anthony & Jolene Benavente (Gino Anthony & Jaden Anthony), Lorna & Eddie Sablan (Lorie Cassandra, Donald John, Eddie Jr., & Kaitlin), Fernando & Meena Benavente (Fernando Antoine, Nathan Marquel, Aiden Joshua & Amiah Grey) & JiAnn Kim

Maternal Uncles & Aunts:

Juan D. Dela Cruz, †Pedro DLC & Judith Pangelinan & Family, Henry DLC. & Matilde Pangelinan & Family, †Agnes P. DLGuerrero & Francisco C. DLGuerrero & Family, Martin DLC. & Frances Pangelinan & Family, Oscar DLC. & Frannie Pangelinan & Family, Rebecca P. & John Santos & Family, Brenda P. & Allen Manibusan & Family & Laurion DLC. & Vera Pangelinan & Family

Paternal Uncles & Aunts:

†Juan S. Benavente & Family, Rita S. Benavente & Family, Frances S. Benavente & Family, Juanita B. & Joe Angel & Family, Carmen B. & Ramon Crisostimo & Family, †Lydia B. Fujihira & Family, Guillermo S. & Arsenia Benavente & Family, Delia B. & Roque Muna & Family, †George B. & Ana Benavente & Family, Alicia B. Agulto & Family & Lillian B. & Carlos Diaz & Family

Special Aunts:

Esther A. & Joaquin Guerrero & Family & Maria & John Ligmaw & Family

Family of Francisco A. Ada:

†Gilbert Castro Ada & Faustina Aldan Ada, Gilbert Aldan Ada, Jr. & Maryann Tenorio Ada & Family, Francisco S. Ada (Koko) / Step-Brother, James Aldan Ada & Elizabeth Sablan Ada & Family, Daniel Aldan Ada, Luciana A. & Edward T. Cabrera & Family & Abelena A. & Jerome T. Attao & Family

Additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces.

Holy Mass is being offered nightly at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm.

On Monday, July 13, 2009 at 7:00 a.m. her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home, Oleai Beach Road, to San Antonio Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Services will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yuus Ma'ase,
Ginen I Familia

Life & Style



Usher performs at the casket during the memorial service for the late pop star Michael Jackson in Los Angeles on Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

Michael Jackson's final resting place a mystery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's glimmering casket took center stage at the Staples Center, sitting for more than two hours as celebrities memorialized the King of Pop under the watchful eyes of millions. And when the ceremony was over, it was gone.

By law, the golden casket that presumably held Jackson's body should be exactly where his death certificate says it is: back at Forest Lawn Memorial Park Hollywood Hills cemetery, the site of a private family memorial service held before the Staples ceremony. Los Angeles County records show the cemetery as the temporary location, where it must stay until those records are officially updated.

But where Jackson's body will eventually be laid to rest remained a mystery, fed by the same level of rumor and speculation that surrounded much of his life. Will he be interred at Forest Lawn? Is Neverland Ranch still a possibility?

What if he's not buried at all, but cremated? The family isn't talking—and may not even have decided yet.

The casket was first seen leaving the mortuary at Forest Lawn, where it got into a hearse for the 10-mile trip to the Staples Center. But before the service even started, the hearse was seen leaving the facility—empty—and wasn't spotted again.

But to keep in good standing with the law, the casket would have needed to return to Forest Lawn at some point, presumably after the crowds went home and the television cameras were long gone.

Robert J. Biggins, a former president of the National Funeral Directors Association, said Jackson's body is likely in his casket which he identified it as a custom-made, top-of-the-line coffin made by the Indiana-based Batesville Casket Company that is

called a "Promethean." The casket is probably in a temporary holding area—perhaps a mausoleum—pending a final location, he said.

"This happened so quickly that it's something that has to have an awful lot of thoughtful consideration," said Biggins, who is the owner of Magoun-Biggins Funeral home in Rockland, Mass. "This is bigger than your average burial."

Conjecture about Jackson's final resting place has been as fraught as the rumors about where his memorial service would be held in the days before the Staples Center was announced. His 5-page will, signed in 2002, does not include final wishes for his body.

Forest Lawn is one likely possibility. If Jackson is buried there, he would join other celebrities

such as Liberace, Gene Autry, Bette Davis and Andy Gibb. Recently deceased actor David Carradine and "Tonight Show" sidekick Ed McMahon also are buried there.

The Jackson family seems divided over whether the body should go to Neverland, which would surely turn the

Santa Barbara County ranch into a West-coast Graceland. But Jackson abandoned the 2,500-acre estate after going into seclusion following his acquittal on child molestation charges in 2005, and many of the things that made it unique—the merry-go-round, Ferris wheel and zoo—are gone.

Billionaire Thomas Barrack, who owns Neverland in a joint venture with Jackson, has expressed an openness to the idea of having the singer's body buried at the ranch. The family would need to get permission from local land-use officials to bury Jackson on private property, then submit an application and paperwork with the state Cemetery and Funeral Bureau.

Sales of MJ albums soared last week

NEW YORK (AP)—Nielsen SoundScan says 800,000 copies of Michael Jackson albums were bought in the U.S. last week—nearly double his sales from the previous week.

Jackson is claiming the entire Top 10 roster on the Top Catalog Album chart this week. His "Number Ones" collection is the top seller, followed by "Thriller." Solo albums occupy every position but No. 7, where the Jackson 5's "Ultimate Collection" album resides.

Data from the week end-

ing Sunday—the first full week since Jackson's June 25 death—shows physical albums accounted for 80 percent of his sales.

On Billboard's Hot Digital Songs chart, Jackson holds five out of the top 10 slots, with "Man in the Mirror" leading as his top-selling digital download song of the week.

Four Jackson CDs also are in the top 10 albums sold on iTunes, and five of the top 10 singles for the week ending Monday.

Fate of fans' flowers, cards for Jackson undecided

LA seeks donations to pay for Jackson memorial tab

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As the final cost of Michael Jackson's memorial service was being calculated, city officials cast about Wednesday to find ways to have others help pick up the multimillion-dollar bill.

City attorney Carmen Trutanich said his office was investigating how the financially troubled city can legally press third parties to pick up at least some of the tab, which could total as much as \$4 million for police overtime and other services.

Trutanich aims to have a report ready for the City Council by Friday, said spokesman John Franklin. The city has also set up a Web site urging fans to make tax-deductible donations through credit cards, PayPal or check to help defray costs.

Fans have thus far donated \$17,000, but contributions have been hampered by technical problems, Matt Szabo, a spokesman for Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, said in a statement.

The site received so many hits that the servers crashed Tuesday night and several times Wednesday, Szabo said. The city's information technology department is working to rectify the problems.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Since Michael Jackson died June 25, fans from around the world have expressed their grief in flowers, balloons, teddy bears, candles, pictures and handwritten notes left throughout the city—at his rented Holmby Hills mansion, at the Jackson family home in Encino, at his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and at his Neverland Ranch in Santa Barbara County.

Now that the King of Pop

has been memorialized publicly and privately, some say it's time to start clearing the mementos away. The family has yet to decide what to do with the keepsakes, spokesman Ken Sunshine said Wednesday.

Just as the sun was rising, city workers began packing up flowers, cards and gifts left on Jackson's star on Hollywood Boulevard. By afternoon, they had filled five boxes, which they delivered to the Holly-

wood Chamber of Commerce for safe keeping.

Chamber spokeswoman Ana Martinez-Holler, who has overseen activities on the Walk of Fame for more than two decades, said she has never seen so many mementos left for a fallen star.

"This has never happened at this magnitude," she said. "We didn't want to throw things away. This was a tribute paid to Michael by his fans. We

just want to know if the family wants them and we're hoping to hear back from them soon."

Fans continued to contribute to the makeshift memorials outside the family compound and Neverland Ranch on Wednesday.

Sandra Darvish, 42, was moved by Tuesday's televised memorial to pay respects in person at the family's home. As she left a bouquet of tulips, the official export from her homeland

of Holland, Darvish said she wasn't always a Jackson fan.

"But after yesterday, I sort of understood the family," she said. "It was very touching."

While she and others added to the collection of flowers, balloons, posters and flags from around the world in front of the home, a groundskeeper piled up the mementos to give to the family. Dead flowers peeked out from one of eight black plastic trash bags sitting nearby.



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee speaks during the memorial service for Michael Jackson at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

Resolution honoring Jackson faces GOP opposition

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee may have trouble keeping the promise she made at Michael Jackson's public memorial for a House resolution that "forever" honors the late pop star.

Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat, took the stage Tuesday at the Staples Center in Los Angeles and hoisted a framed copy of the resolution, embossed with a gold seal. The measure will be debated on the House floor, she said.

For that framed, embossed resolution to be completely legit, it must first get past some opposition.

Rep. Peter King, a New York Republican who called Jackson a "pervert, child molester, pedophile" in a video he posted on YouTube this week, vowed Tuesday to do "what-

ever I have to do" to oppose honoring Jackson.

Without mentioning King by name, Jackson Lee noted at the memorial that Michael Jackson was acquitted of child molestation charges. She blasted critics who "don't understand the hearts of entertainers" and "don't know how they heal the world on behalf of America."

"We understand the Constitution. We understand laws and we know people are innocent until proven otherwise. That is what the Constitution stands for," Jackson Lee said, clutching the framed resolution in front of her shiny white suit.

Her legislation, House Resolution 600, lists several charitable acts by Michael Jackson over his long career and proclaims him as an American legend, musical icon and

world humanitarian. He is, Jackson Lee said, "someone who will be honored forever and forever and forever and forever and forever."

In the House, non-controversial resolutions honoring a person who has died or carried out a noteworthy accomplishment normally move quickly from committee to the House floor and then pass on a voice vote. The Michael Jackson resolution, introduced June 26, is awaiting action in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, of which Jackson Lee is a member and King is not.

An opponent could ask for a recorded vote, which then requires a two-thirds majority for passage. So far, Jackson Lee's resolution has just one co-sponsor, Rep. Diane Watson, D-Calif.

Paris Hilton film trial rooted in Ponzi scheme

MIAMI (AP)—In an odd intersection of showbiz and securities fraud, proving a claim that Paris Hilton was a lousy pitchwoman would benefit investors jilted by a Ponzi scheme she had no part in.

A federal lawsuit set to go to trial Thursday against Hilton contends she didn't do enough

to promote the 2006 sorority hijinks movie "Pledge This!" and seeks about \$8 million in damages from Hilton and her company, Paris Hilton Entertainment Inc.

One of the main investors in the box-office bomb was once a high-flying concert and theater promoter from Miami named

Jack Utsick, who was listed as one of the movie's producers. When the admittedly bad movie lost money, his now-defunct Worldwide Entertainment Group took a financial hit.

But it's not Utsick who's suing Hilton. Rather, the lawsuit stems from an effort to repay people ripped off in what federal securities investigators say was a \$300 million Ponzi scheme hatched by Utsick. Hilton's work on the film had nothing to do with the scheme. The Securities and Exchange Commission said Worldwide Entertainment was a multimillion-dollar fraud and won a civil judgment earlier this year against Utsick and several associates. A federal judge appointed attorney Michael Goldberg as receiver to collect as much money as possible for some 3,300 wronged investors.

It was Goldberg who filed the lawsuit against Hilton. He claims she failed to adequately promote the DVD release for "Pledge This!" and that she deprived the film's investors of \$8.3 million in profits by not cooperating.

Hilton and her attorneys claim she went the extra mile to plug the movie, which played in just 25 theaters and made only about \$2.9 million worldwide, according to court documents. Hilton, 28, is expected to testify in the three-day bench trial before U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno.



In a Saturday, July 4, 2009 file photo, heiress Paris Hilton, center, dances as she arrives to host a party in Beirut, Lebanon.

Death and Funeral Announcement

Antonia Tudela

Born: February 27, 1970, of San Vicente, Saipan
Peacefully joined her Creator
on July 03, 2009 at the age of 39

IN HER NEW LIFE, ANTONIA NOW JOINS HER:

<u>Grandparents:</u>	Pedro Muna Tudela and Rufina Manibusan Tudela
<u>Mother:</u>	Margarita Tudela Tareyama
<u>Daughter:</u>	Kiala T. Borja
<u>Brothers:</u>	Ramon (Bo) Tudela & John Tudela
<u>Mother-in-law:</u>	Ana Lizama Reyes
<u>Father-in-law:</u>	Vicente Santos Borja

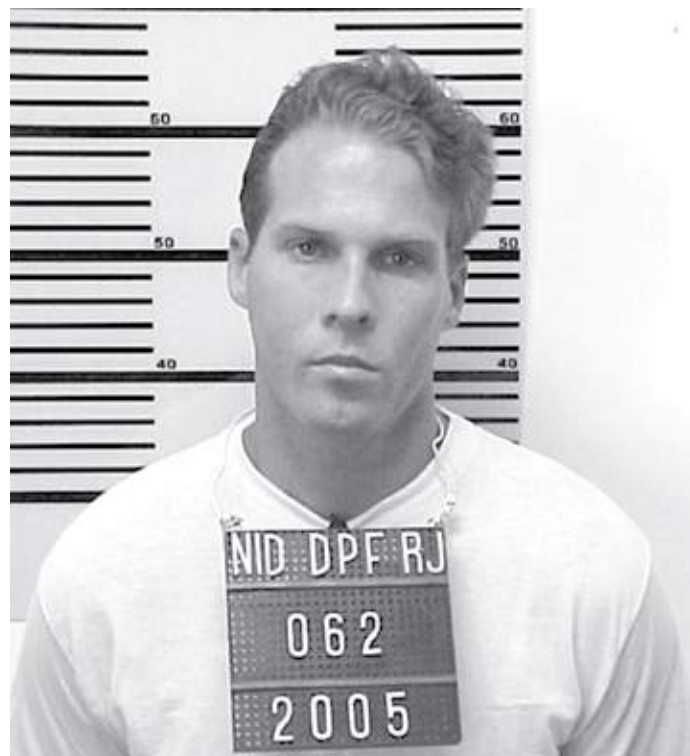
Antonia's loving memory will forever be treasured by her:

<u>Husband:</u>	Vince Borja
<u>Children:</u>	Leonora, Pedro (PJ), SheAna & Nyesha
<u>Brothers/Sisters/In-Laws:</u>	Pedro and Elvie Tudela, Rufina Tudela, Teresa T. and Merbin Zapanta, Joseph T. Tareyama, Richard T. Tareyama, Jesse T. Tareyama, Jesselyn T. Tareyama, Julie Borja and Jess Villacorta, Elizabeth Borja and Frank Sablan, Lucy and Donald Borja, Erica and Vincent Borja, Roke Borja and Melanie Acebedo, David and Bertha Borja.

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, Godchildren and other relatives and friends.

Nightly mass is being offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. On Saturday, July 11, 2009, her remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center to San Vicente Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You from her Husband, Children and Family.



In this 2005 file photo released by Brazilian federal police, fugitive Jesse James Hollywood, who is accused of orchestrating a plot to kidnap and kill 15-year-old Nick Markowitz, is seen at a federal police precinct in Brazil.

Jesse James Hollywood convicted of murder, kidnap

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Jesse James Hollywood was convicted Wednesday of the kidnap and murder of a 15-year-old boy that inspired the 2007 movie "Alpha Dog."

After deliberating about four days, a Santa Barbara Superior Court jury also found Hollywood, 29, guilty of the special circumstance allegation of being involved in a crime in which an assault weapon or machine gun was used, making him eligible for the death penalty.

Hollywood stared straight ahead as the verdict was read.

"I can't believe they found him guilty of that murder," his father, Jack Hollywood, said outside the courtroom.

The victim's parents said they were relieved but declined to comment further because of a gag order issued in the case.

The penalty phase of the case

was scheduled to begin Monday.

Hollywood was accused of orchestrating the kidnapping and eventual killing of Nicholas Markowitz in August 2000 because the teen's half brother owed a drug debt.

Nicholas was taken to Santa Barbara and held for several days before being shot and buried in a shallow grave. Four others have been convicted in connection with the crime.

Hollywood took the stand in his own defense, a move legal experts say is rare and potentially risky. He testified that he and two friends grabbed Markowitz off a street in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles but did not order the teen's murder.

He said the teen was taken in an escalating dispute between him and the boy's older half-brother, Ben Markowitz. Hollywood, an admitted marijuana

dealer, said Ben Markowitz owed him a \$2,500 drug debt—more than twice the amount prosecutors have cited.

Hollywood said he was afraid after Ben Markowitz left threatening messages, poisoned his dog and broke a window at his home, only hours before Nicholas was abducted. Hollywood called the taking of Nicholas irrational and not well-thought out.

Hollywood said Ryan Hoyt, the gunman who was convicted and sentenced to death, acted on his own because of concern about Ben Markowitz finding out about the abduction. Hollywood also said the gun used to kill Nicholas was once his but that he gave it to Hoyt months before the murder.

Prosecutors did not call Hoyt as a witness—the one person who could definitely say if Hollywood ordered the slaying.

Also left out of Hollywood's trial were Jesse Rugge and William Skidmore, two others convicted in the case.

Prosecutors contend Hollywood decided to get rid of Nicholas after learning from an attorney that he could face life in prison for kidnapping. They also believe the murder was a way for Hoyt to settle his own drug debt with Hollywood. Hollywood had pleaded not guilty to kidnap and murder in the case that inspired "Alpha Dog," which starred Bruce Willis, Justin Timberlake, Sharon Stone and Emile Hirsch, who played "Johnny Truelove," a character based on Hollywood.

Hollywood fled after the slaying and later testified he had lived in Colorado, the Mojave Desert and various parts of Canada before he was captured in Brazil.

After long delay, 16 'Runway' contestants revealed

NEW YORK (AP)—Let the sew-off begin: After a massive delay, "Project Runway" is revealing its new batch of aspiring fashion designers.

Until now, they lurked in the shadows, sidelined by a legal battle over the popular design-challenge series, which began on Bravo but ended up in the hands of Lifetime.

As the female friendly network prepares for the Aug. 20 premiere, the 16 contestants' diverse faces and backgrounds are ready for launch. Three of them—Nicolas Putvinski, Gordana Gehlhausen and Irina Shabeyeva—hail originally from Russia, Bosnia and the Republic of Georgia, respectively.

Yet another contestant, Malvin Vien, lists his favorite designer as "himself" and inspiration as "the farmers of rural China." Another, Louise Black, claims the first garment she ever sewed was her very own wedding dress.

Nearly half call New York City home.

Season six takes place in Los Angeles, where celebrities such as Christina Aguilera and Lindsay Lohan will make cameos during challenges. The panel of chic remains: Heidi Klum as host/judge, flanked by mentor Tim Gunn and judges Nina



In this photo provided by StarPix, model Heidi Klum poses near a billboard in New York's Times Square, Wednesday, July 8, 2009.

Garcia and Michael Kors.

"Look out for the girls," Klum said Wednesday, during a break from filming the show's seventh edition in New York. "The girls

are very strong on season six. There's a lot of crying, there's fighting going on, there's a lot of drama going on—but especially with the girls."

Getty Center, college evacuates due to LA fire

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The world-famous Getty Center art complex and nearby Mount St. Mary's College were evacuated Wednesday as a fire burned in thick brush on the steep slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The fire erupted at 12:44 p.m. and quickly grew to 80 acres above parking facilities for the Getty, which has a collection ranging from European paintings to illuminated manuscripts and photographs, including works by Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh.

About 350 firefighters

worked on rugged slopes and seven helicopters pounded flames with repeated water drops. Some of the helicopters were able to reload from nearby Stone Canyon Reservoir.

Fire Chief Douglas Barry said the fire began about three-quarters of a mile from the Getty and was moving away to the east as winds blew out of the west. The country club community of Mountaigate was notified of potential evacuations, but officials were optimistic.

"We feel very confident we'll have this fire under con-

trol very shortly," Barry said.

The fire was 20 percent contained shortly after 5 p.m. and officials expected increasingly favorable conditions because of rising humidity.

The origin of the blaze was not known, said Battalion Chief Patrick Butler.

About 800 employees and 1,600 visitors to the J. Paul Getty Museum and other parts of the hilltop complex were shuttled to the center's south building as a precaution, Getty Center spokesman Ron Hartwig said.

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Bruno

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Sacha Baron Cohen, Gustaf Hammarsten
 Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Borat trickster Sacha Baron Cohen returns to the big screen to offer yet another stinging dose of sociopolitical satire in this comedy that finds him assuming the persona of gay fashionmonger Bruno, the self-proclaimed "voice of Austrian youth TV." Originally conceived as part of Cohen's cult television series Da Ali G Show, the character of Bruno offered a cleverly costumed Cohen the opportunity to highlight the absurdities of the fashion industry by interviewing unsuspecting fashion icons and other haute couture hangers-on.



Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs

Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:30
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:20 4:30 7:25

John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah
 Family-Oriented Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis

After the events of Ice Age: The Meltdown, life begins to change for Manny and his friends: Scrat is still on the hunt to hold onto his beloved acorn, while finding a possible romance in a female sabre-toothed squirrel named Scratte. Manny and Ellie, having since become an item, are expecting a baby, which leaves Manny anxious to ensure that everything is perfect for when his baby arrives. Diego is fed up with being treated like a house-cat and ponders the notion that he is becoming too laid-back.



Public Enemies

Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:20 7:05 9:50
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:25 4:20 7:05

Johnny Depp, Christian Bale
 Crime Drama • Rated R



Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:00 4:00 7:00

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
 Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13



My Sister's Keeper

Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:30 4:25 7:20

Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin
 Family Drama • Rated PG-13



The Proposal

Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:10 7:15 9:40
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:15 4:10 7:15

Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds
 Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13



BFF (Best Friends Forever)

Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:05 7:10 9:35
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:05 4:05 7:10

Sharon Cuneta, Ai Ai Delas Alas
 Prehistoric Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG



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AP newsroom is a setting for Drew Barrymore film

NEW YORK (AP)—Will it be a busy news week for Drew Barrymore?

On Monday, a romantic comedy starring Barrymore as an older-than-usual newspaper intern is scheduled to arrive for several days' shooting at the New York headquarters of The Associated Press.

Barrymore and a production crew will be on hand during the week to shoot scenes for "Going the Distance."

The AP's newsroom will serve as the setting for the mythical New York Sentinel, where Barrymore's character works.

Meanwhile, real-life news-gathering will continue around her as usual by the AP's editorial staff in the sprawling facility, home to the AP since 2004, which covers roughly the size of two American football fields.

Several scenes are expected to be shot for the film, which also stars Justin Long and is



directed by Nanette Burstein ("American Teen" and "The Kid Stays in the Picture"). Also featured are Christina Applegate and Jason Sudeikis. The film, a New Line Cinema production, depicts Barrymore and Long as a couple struggling with their long-distance relationship.

New York's Daily News, based in the same Manhattan office building as the AP's headquarters, will also play a part in the film, appearing as a fictional rival newspaper to the Sentinel.

Payment for use of the AP newsroom will go to the AP Emergency Relief Fund, which helps AP staff and family members worldwide cope with catastrophes not covered by company benefits or insurance, according to AP spokeswoman Ellen Hale.

In this April 14, 2009 file photo, actress Drew Barrymore leaves a taping of "The Late Show with David Letterman" in New York. **AP**

Co-workers do a double-take at woman's radical new look

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: A co-worker, "Marilyn," recently returned from time off with a noticeably different face. She said nothing about it, so we didn't either for a while. Finally, one woman remarked to her that she appeared to have had "some work done." Abby, Marilyn denied it!

What's considered proper here? Should we have said something initially about her radically changed appearance? We were afraid if we ignored it she'd be disappointed. Having spent that much money and gone through that much pain, wouldn't she have been crushed if we hadn't?

INQUIRING MINDS IN PASADENA



Dear Abby

DEAR INQUIRING: When someone has spent big bucks on plastic surgery, the one question that person does NOT want to hear is, "Have you had some work done?" If someone has a good surgeon, the results are subtle, not radical.

A more tactful way to have approached your co-worker would have been to say, "Marilyn, you look wonderful—so RESTED. That trip took years off you..." Then, if Marilyn wanted to share her secret, she could have—or just said thank you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have always been active. We're avid campers and certified scuba divers; we water-ski and enjoy taking leisurely rides along country roads on our motorcycle.

I recently had an accident and had to have an X-ray of my spine. Afterward, my doctor informed me that the vertebrae in my neck are positioned in such a way that if I'm ever in another accident, I would probably become a paraplegic.

My husband now wants to sell our motorcycle and do everything possible to "protect" me. How do I tell this wonderful man that I don't want to change our lifestyle? We do not do anything dangerous, but he insists that we now have to watch out for "the fools out there."

ADVENTURER IN ALBANY, GA.

DEAR ADVENTURER: Frankly, I agree with your husband. There is no denying that motorcycles can be dangerous even when the riders are taking every precaution. However, because you feel so strongly about this, perhaps you should consider getting a second medical opinion. If the second doctor agrees with the first, then you and your husband must decide whether a leisurely ride in the country is worth the risk of a lifetime in a wheelchair, because that outcome would affect him, too.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I live in a small town in Alaska. A relationship with a woman I loved more than I have ever loved anyone has ended. I'm left with only pain, misery and suffering.

I keep trying to move on, but everything I do makes me think of her. I have asked friends for advice; they all tell me to "man up and get over it!"

It's frustrating to be told to "get over her" and accept what is. I know brooding isn't helpful, but it's a natural byproduct of pain. What I need to ask you is this: Is it worth putting your heart and soul on the line with the likely possibility of having them crushed? I hope so, because without hope, then what is there to live for? That thought scares me more than anything I have ever experienced.

HEARTBROKEN UP NORTH

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Of course it's worth it, because without risk there is no reward. I am speaking with the voice of experience. You have plenty to live for. Falling in love is like prospecting for gold. Sometimes you strike the mother lode on the first try, but most times you have to keep digging. I don't know how small the community you live in is, but if it's so small that most of the eligible candidates for romance have been eliminated, then you should consider relocating.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Stalking charges dropped against Marion Barry



AP

In this Feb. 2, 2009 file photo, actress Jenna Fischer arrives for the premiere of "He's Just Not That Into You" at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in the Hollywood, section of Los Angeles.

'Office' star Jenna Fischer gets engaged in Paris

NEW YORK (AP)—She's engaged on NBC's "The Office," and now, Jenna Fischer can say the same in real life. Her spokesman, Lewis Kay, says the 35-year-old actress and her boyfriend, screenwriter Lee Kirk, became engaged in Paris on June 30.

Kay says the couple have been dating since January 2008.

Fischer was previously married to filmmaker James Gunn. They announced their split in September 2007 after six years of marriage.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal prosecutors have dropped charges against former Washington Mayor Marion Barry, who was accused of stalking his ex-girlfriend.

U.S. Park Police arrested the current D.C. councilman on Saturday on a stalking charge after they said a woman complained she was being stalked.

Barry's lawyer denied the al-



Barry

Watts-Brighthaupt.

Watts-Brighthaupt earlier this week

legations and said Barry was arrested on the way home from a meal with the woman, Donna

also released a statement that appeared to deny she had accused him of stalking.

The U.S. Attorney's Office said Wednesday that it would not pursue the stalking charges after reviewing evidence.

Barry served four terms as mayor. He was videotaped in 1990 smoking crack cocaine in an FBI sting but later regained the mayor's office.

Williams lined up for HBO comedy special

NEW YORK (AP)—Robin Williams is bringing his standup act back to HBO.

The cable network says a special of Williams performing in Washington will air in December. The show is part of the 57-year-old actor-comedian's "Weapons of Self-Destruction" tour.

Williams has done four solo specials

on HBO. The most recent, which aired in 2002, received five Emmy nominations. His relationship with HBO dates back to his appearance on a "Young Comedians" show in 1977.

Williams co-stars with John Travolta in the upcoming Disney comedy "Old Dogs."



Williams



AP

In this image released by HBO, the cast of the HBO series, "Big Love," from left, Ginnifer Goodwin, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Bill Paxton and Chloe Sevigny, are shown.

University of Utah, HBO in flap over logo

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The University of Utah says the HBO series "Big Love" can't use the school's name or logo without its permission.

University officials say they learned an episode of the show displayed a document with the school name and logo. They say

the document made it seem like the university is affiliated with the program about a fictitious polygamous family that lives in a Salt Lake City suburb.

University President Michael K. Young says Collegiate Images, the university's agent, has sent a cease-and-

desist letter to HBO, demanding the logo be removed from the episode and not be used in the future.

HBO said it was confident that nothing in the program violates anyone's rights and that it "will be responding in due course."

Pastimes

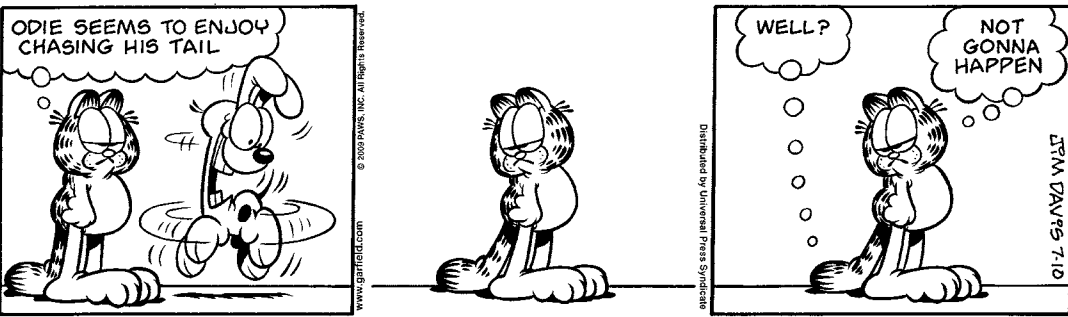
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



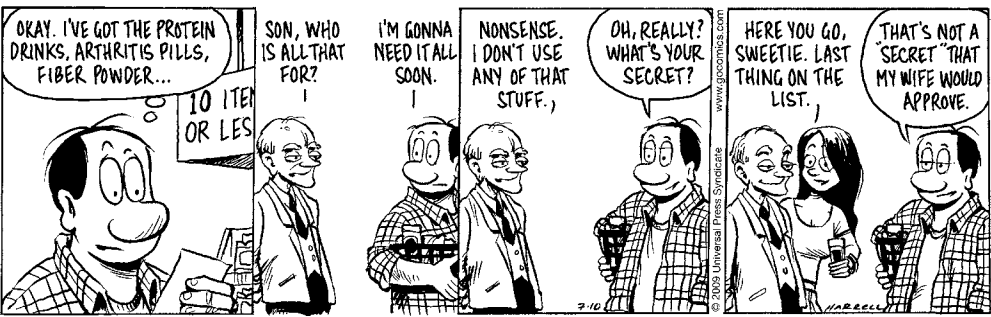
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



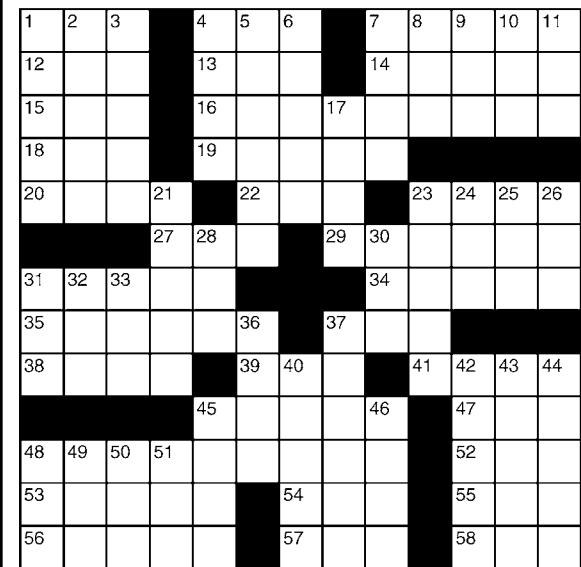
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 A welcome sight?
 - 4 "Eureka!"
 - 7 Halloween option
 - 12 "The — Daba Honey-moon"
 - 13 Wager
 - 14 Proportion
 - 15 Gridlock component
 - 16 Garnet variety
 - 18 Fool
 - 19 Steeple
 - 20 Expert
 - 22 — de cologne
 - 23 Frat-party garb
 - 27 Started
 - 29 Cheap
 - 31 "Cats" inspiration
 - 34 Put into words
 - 35 Small chicken
 - 37 Feathery accessory
 - 38 Osseous
- DOWN**
- 1 Large, showy parrot
 - 3 Ankle, to anatomists
 - 4 Rudiments
 - 5 Piled
 - 6 Places in the heart
 - 7 Verifiable
 - 8 Operated
 - 9 List-ending abbr.
 - 10 Have a bug
 - 11 Place-kicker's pride
 - 17 Very dry, as champagne
 - 21 Polish money
 - 23 November birthstone
 - 24 Kyoto cummerbund
 - 25 Card-table call
 - 26 Consumed
 - 28 H, to Hellenes
 - 30 Seek the hand of
 - 31 Go back
 - 32 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
 - 33 Hostel
 - 36 Intend
 - 37 Ravel piece
 - 40 Levees
 - 42 Fiery gems
 - 43 Fleet-related
 - 44 Plaintive poem
 - 45 Equitable
 - 46 Passel
 - 48 Petrol
 - 49 Heidi's height?
 - 50 Carnival city
 - 51 Distant

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Simpson, 29; Arlo Guthrie, 62; Sue Lyon, 63; Lawrence Pressman, 70

Happy Birthday: Search for unique ways to make your money stretch. A strong belief in what you are capable of doing will enable you to reach your goals. Partnerships can develop, allowing you to get twice as much accomplished at half the price. Do whatever you can to make your home more convenient and environmentally friendly. Your numbers are 5, 11, 13, 28, 35, 37, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your generosity will be thought of as frivolous and can cause you personal grief and a last-minute change of plans. You may have to backtrack in order to make things better but remember: Your big-hearted nature attracted the complainer to you in the first place. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be caught in the middle of someone else's dilemma. Try to keep your distance without being obvious. You don't want to be blamed for meddling or for abandoning a grave situation. Work toward your own goals. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a look at who you are and the image you present. You will come up with some interesting ways to update your appeal and to interest others in giving you opportunities you have been denied in the past. Take charge. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Consider making some changes to your lifestyle that will ensure a long and healthy future. You can make a difference to the people you love

by owning up to your responsibilities and taking care of business. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You are in the driver's seat, so manipulate whatever situation you face to suit your needs. A chance to make a financial or contractual alteration that will make your life easier is apparent. A partnership may not be what it appears. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a backseat if someone is urging you to make an impulsive move you aren't sure is wise. Your past experience and excellent memory will help you convey your position regarding a resolution that needs to be made. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You are on your way to the top and recognition and rewards will be yours. Show off your talents and your success by celebrating with the people who have been supporting your efforts and believing in your abilities. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let personal and professional problems collide. Separate them if you want to keep everything in your life running smoothly. Space your time so you don't disappoint anyone and can still accomplish your goals. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You've got some interesting alternatives heading your way that can make a marked difference to where you live, whom you visit or who you deal with. Make time for the people you have neglected lately. Inspiration and growth will go hand-in-hand. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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privity to some interesting information that will lead to a profitable outcome. An added responsibility will turn out to be a blessing, helping you make choices you may not have made otherwise. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There will be way too much going on for you to handle on your own. The more vocal you are about what you are faced with, the better response you will receive. Your attitude will impress and inspire others to follow you into the darkest dilemma, ensuring that you come through unscathed. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may have to answer questions if you have been keeping a secret that is revealed by mistake. Try to be as diplomatic as possible to avoid getting anyone, including you, in trouble. Focus on personal change. ***

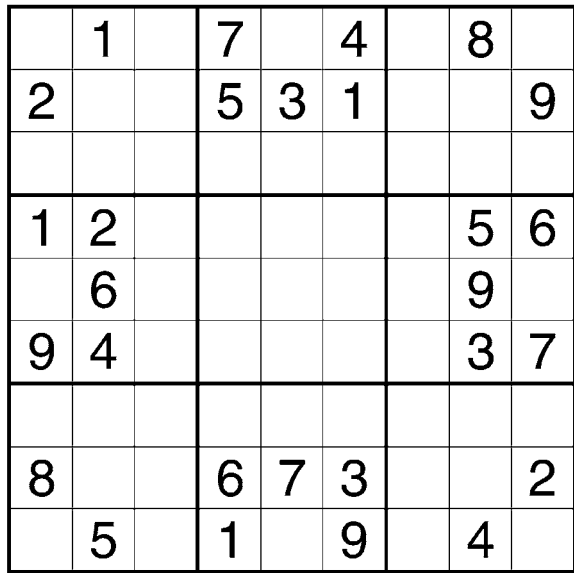
Birthday Baby: You are unique, friendly and astute. You are flexible, vulnerable, caring and generous. You have strong beliefs and unusual interests.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

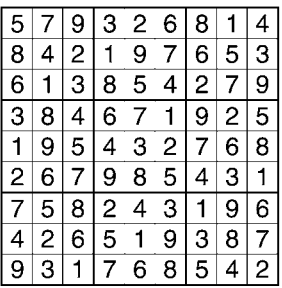


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

7/9

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LONDON'S STANSTED AIRPORT

Solution: 8 letters



© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 7/10

Airfares, Arrivals, BAA, Bags, Board, Buses, Coach, Cost, Departures, Destinations, Domestic, Essex, Expand, Flight, Fuel, Gatwick, Growth, Harlow, Heathrow, Holiday, Hotels, Hubs, Increasing, International, Land, Lounge, Maps, Passport, Rates, Rentals, Roof, Satellite, Scheduled, Shop, Tickets, Trains, Transport, Travel, Uttlesford

Yesterday's Answer: Rock

NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Palau Distributor
Beverage/Tobacco
Looking for Sales Manager/
Accounting/Office Manager
Email: hr@ptcsaipan.com

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/
24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi &
ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA
applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/
students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WHATZIT Solution:
Overwhelming odds

**4 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom
House for Rent**

**Centrally located in
Garapan, fenced yard,
equipped with water
reserve tank, split type
air-conditioners in every
room. Nice and friendly
neighborhood.**

Available end of June.

**Please call 484-0770
for more info.
NMHC applicants welcome!**

**INVESTMENT
PROPOSALS**

I am looking for a partner with a
profitable investment proposal,
to invest some fund. Contact me
immediately at the information
below provided you can
guarantee the security of my
investment capital, kindly
furnish me with full business
details and proposal for a Joint
venture partnership with you.
Please send e-mail to:
mrwolfgang002@gmail.com
Contact name:
Wolfgang Brustellin

GREGORIO S. ESGUERRA
C/O Marlon Carlos
P.O. Box 500745 CK Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 235 0810 / (670) 788 8723

Pro Se,

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

GREGORIO SAMSON) FCD-CIVIL
ESGUERRA) ACTION
Petitioner,) NO. 08-0550

vs.) SUMMONS

FLORDELIZA A.)
ESGUERRA)
Respondent,)

TO: FLORDELIZA A. ESGUERRA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and
notified to file any answer you wish to
make to the Complaint, a copy of which
is given to you herewith, within twenty
(20) days after service of the Summons
upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of
your answer to Gregorio Esguerra
whose address is C/O Marlon Carlos
P.O. Box 500745 CK, Saipan MP 96950
as soon as practical after filing your
answer or sending it to the Clerk of
Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and
filed with the Clerk of this Court at
Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be
prepared for you by your counsel and
sent to the Clerk of this Court by
messenger or Mail. It is not necessary
for you to appear personally until further
notice. If you fail to file and answer in
accordance with this summons, judgment
by default may be taken against you for
relief in the complaint.

Dated this 15th day of September , 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg.
3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully fur-
nished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA
Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime
security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury
2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beauti-
ful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished.
Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area.
Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Xanadu Club, Inc.

Vacation Homes & Condo Rentals
PMB 135 PPP Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950

Administrative Assistant
Purchasing Supervisor
Local Hire with CNMI driver's license

Room Service Attendants
Guest Service Officers (Chinese Speaking is a plus)

Please email your resume to:
suzette.sasamoto@usxanadu.com or admin@usxanadu.com

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or
name in this arrangement of letters.

**13579
WHELMING**

Find today's solution in this section

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-4801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE ESTATE OF) CIVIL
MARGARITA B. SEMAN,) ACTION
Deceased.) NO. 09-0273

) NOTICE
) OF
) HEARING

TO: INTERESTED CLAIMANTS AND
CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that Richard B.
Seman, has filed a petition in the
Superior Court of the Commonwealth of
the Northern Mariana Islands to be
appointed as Administrator of the Estate
of Margarita B. Seman, deceased, and to
determine the heirs of the decedent. The
attorney of record is Danilo T. Aguilar,
Esq., P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP
96950. The hearing on the petition is set
for July 28, 2009, at the Superior Court in
Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands, at 1:30 p.m.
All interested persons should appear at
this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the
estate, or against the deceased should
file their claims with the Clerk of Court of
the Superior Court within sixty (60) days
after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 26th day of June, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Across from IT&E on Texas Rd., A/C, washer/
dryer, 24-hr. CUC/rainwater, ceiling fans, walk-
in closet, well-maintained. 1BR furn. \$375/mo.
unfurn. \$300/mo. 2BR furn. \$475/mo. unfurn.
\$400/mo. Call Ed at 788-6268 or 235-0409

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USED PARTS

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P.O. BOX 501736
SAIPAN, MP 96950

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF) FCD GU
THE PETITION TO) Civil Action
APPOINT GENERAL) No. 09-0294
GUARDIANSHIP)

FOR:) NOTICE
JOSEPH JOHN MUNA) OF
ALDAN and JEROME) HEARING
JUDE MUNA ALDAN,)
A Minor Children,)

By:)

SOLEDAD C. MUNA,)
Petitioner.)

Notice is hereby given
that the above-entitled
matter is set for a hearing
on July 29, 2009, at 9:00
a.m. in Courtroom 205A
before Associate Judge
Kenneth L. Govendo.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,

vs.

MANASSES S. BORJA,
Defendant.

**CIVIL CASE
NO. 98-0223A**

**NOTICE
OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to
the Order Following Status Conference and
Order to Auction Real Property, dated July 6,
2009, issued by The Superior Court of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands, Defendant Manasses S. Borja's
reversionary interest in Lot 099 E 1, located
in Talofofo, Saipan, will be sold at public
auction to the highest bidder, on terms and
conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will
be held on Friday, July 24, 2009, at the hour
of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O' Connor
Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Nauru
Building, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth
of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale
will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property
described as Lot 99 E 01, (formerly known as
AH 268) as more particularly described on
Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 099 E 01, the
original of which was recorded 19 Dec 89 as
Document No. 89-4295 at Commonwealth
Recorder's Saipan. It may be viewed and
inspected one day prior to the sale. Failure
to inspect the property or any portion
thereof will not constitute the basis for any
claim, adjustment, or rescission of the
auction sale. Schedule of inspection can be
made before July 22, 2009, by calling O'
Connor Berman Dotts & Banes with
Telephone No. (670) 234-5684 and Fax No.
(670) 234-5683.

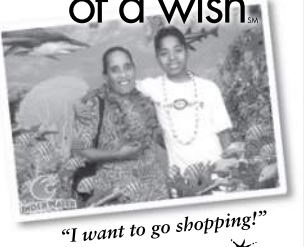
Warranties and Covenants. The property
listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its
current condition. The sale will be held
without any warranties or covenants
whatsoever, whether express or implied,
including but not limited to warranties of
title. Neither the undersigned nor the
Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant
express or implied for the property listed for
sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned
nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality
of the property listed for sale in this Notice,
or for any fault or defect in the description
thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to
rescission, damages, or any remedy on
account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
A) Rights and duties of Auctioneer.
Consistent with the laws, of the Common-
wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
governing auction sales, the undersigned
shall have the following rights and duties in
conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw
the property listed for sale in this Notice
before sale or before a bid for such property
is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without
notice at any time before the property is
struck off, without incurring any liability
whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or
all bids for any reason.
B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance.
The highest of such bids will automatically
be considered the opening bid. Advance
bids may be submitted only in writing,
signed by the bidder, and delivered to the
office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes.
The bidder assumes all risk. Any person,
including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at
the auction sale, whether or not such
person has submitted as advance bid.
C) Payment. The successful bidder shall
pay the purchase price to the undersigned
immediately after the sale is consummated.
D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The
undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the
right to change any of the terms hereof by
announcement, written or oral, made
before the auction sale or at the commence-
ment thereof and such change or changes,
by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on
all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated, this 7th of July, 2009

/s/ O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

share the power
of a wish



"I want to go shopping!"

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www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right
exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar
and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete
7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as
\$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help
wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below
packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to
publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will
come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter
will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day
prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the
first day of publication. Errors should be called in before
noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to
place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when
necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to ap-
plicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the
Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-
2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior
to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject
or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves
the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise
copy when necessary.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 09-026

"SINAPALO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PERIMETER FENCING PROJECT"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of a perimeter fence at Sinaplo Elementary School in Rota, CNMI.

The Scope of Work and detailed specification are available beginning July 03, 2009, at Pacific Quick Print located in Middle Road Garapan. There will be a charge to contractors for copy fees.

A **Pre-Bid meeting On-Site** will be scheduled for interested contractors at 9:00 AM on July 21, 2009. The deadline for the submission of questions will be on July 23, 2009.

Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**PSS IFB 09-026**" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and will be submitted to PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than July 29, 2009 at 10:30 AM. Any bid received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Questions should be in writing and addressed to David Loan, CIP Coordinator via fax to 664-3715 or by e-mail to loand@pss.cnmi.mp.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D. /s/ Robert Florian
Commissioner of Education Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 09-027

"DEMOLITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF ONE KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM AT SAN VICENTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive bids for the demolition and construction of one kindergarten classroom at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan, CNMI.

The Scope of work and detailed specification are available beginning July 3, 2009, at Pacific Quick Print & Post located at Middle Road Garapan. There will be a charge to contractors for copy fees.

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting On-Site** is scheduled for 10:00 AM on July 22, 2009. The deadline for the submissions of questions will be on July 24, 2009. Bids submitted by Bidders who did not attend this meeting will be rejected.

Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**PSS IFB 09-027**" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and will be submitted to PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than July 29, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Any bid received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Questions should be in writing and address to David Loan, CIP Coordinator via fax to 664-3715 or by e-mail to loand@pss.cnmi.mp.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D. /s/ Robert Florian
Commissioner of Education Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 09-029

"SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF NEW "BUTLER" ROOFING MATERIAL FOR ROTA SINAPALO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the Supply & Installation of New "Butler" Roofing Material for Sinapalo Elementary School in Rota, CNMI.

The Scope of Work and detailed specification are available beginning July 03, 2009, at the Pacific Quick Print & Post located in Middle Road Garapan. There will be a charge to contractors for copy fees.

A **Pre-Bid Meeting On-Site** will be scheduled for interested contractors at 10:30 AM on July 21, 2009. The deadline for the submission of questions will be on July 23, 2009.

Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**PSS IFB 09-029**" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and will be submitted to PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than July 29, 2009 at 9:30 AM. Any bid received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Questions should be in writing and addressed to David Loan, CIP Coordinator via fax to 664-3715 or by e-mail to loand@pss.cnmi.mp.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D. /s/ Robert Florian
Commissioner of Education Procurement Officer



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First Daily Newspaper

235-NEWS



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: July 8, 2009

Closing date: July 31, 2009

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

1 (one) Accounting Manager (Re-Announcement) 1 (one) Ports Police Chief

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2009.**

Minimum Qualifications:

Accounting Manager: Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) plus seven (7) years of progressive responsible experience in accounting or a four (4) year accounting degree or related field from an accredited US college or university with no less than two (2) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional accounting level of which two (2) years pertain to supervisory experience. Experience in the use of computerized systems, highly preferred is experience in MAS90. Experience in reconciling accounts receivable, accounts payable, preparation of Journal Entries and Collects.

This position is on a fast track for Deputy Comptroller. Accordingly emphasis will be given to applicants who have advanced degrees or are CPA candidates.

Ports Police Chief: The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is seeking energetic and professional minded person to fill the position of Ports Police Chief. Must have college degree as AA degree in police science or law enforcement related field with at least 10 years work experience in police work or BS or BA in Police Science or law enforcement related work with at least 5 years experience. (None degreed applicants must have at least 15 years of law enforcement experience with 5 of those years in a responsible position managing personnel and equipment. Must have strong reading and writing capabilities)

This position is responsible for the entire ports police functions at both the airports and seaports on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Must be well verse or shows the ability to become thoroughly familiar with TSA, FAA, US Coast Guard Homeland Security and CPA regulations.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact the Executive Director by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.**
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **RUNWAY 7/25 REHABILITATION – PACKAGE 2, PHASE 2, FRANCISCO C. ADA SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-53/58.**

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2009**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of the Airport Runway 7/25 Rehabilitation to include milling of existing runway, taxiway, blast pad and shoulder pavements, asphalt concrete overlay, grooving and marking of surfaces; and the restoration of Taxiway "A", Replacement of Runway Edge Lights and Guidance Signs, and the installation of lighted wind cones all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in accordance with **Item G-100-3.2 (Contract Time)** of the General Project Requirement of the Technical Specifications. Liquidated damages shall be in accordance with **Item G-100-3.4 (Liquidated Damages)** of the General Project Requirements. The contractor shall be assessed with the liquidated damages if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-27 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, Friday, July 17, 2009**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders shall be required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference. Contractors are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 601-4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant pursuant to the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ **EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, PE**
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: July 2, 2009



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW09-IFB-027

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Wind Turbines for the W.I.C. Administration and Clinic Buildings, Phase II, Navy Hill, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting bids for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Wind Turbines for W.I.C. Administration and Clinic Buildings, Phase II, Navy Hill, Saipan**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

The project package will be available on or after June 26, 2009, at Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00), is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulation, dated May 24, 2001. **Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and be submitted with the BID preference is claimed.**

There will be a Mandatory Pre-bid Conference for this project on July 15, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. (local time) at the WIC Administration Building N-25. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on July 20, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr.**, Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Bldg. Office, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-027"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. (local time), on July 23, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. (local time), on July 23, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 23, 2009, and must be received no later than August 03, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejections of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. (local time), on August 06, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. (local time), on July 28, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**), a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CBMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and annotation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Grant.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One hundred and Eight (**180**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **DEIGO B. SONGSONG**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW09-RFP-029

DESIGN BUILD OF COMMONWEALTH DRIVE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Design Build of Commonwealth Drive Drainage Improvement** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per **Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **July 10, 2009** at the DPW, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center Office. **Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference at the south side of Garapan Central Park at 1:00 P.M. on July 29, 2009.** Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr.**, Director, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **August 03, 2009.**

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and Background of the Company– 40%;
2. Past experience of the contractor on design builds projects and successfully completions– 15%;
3. Capability and ability to perform the work and completed within the time frame– 10%; and
4. Costs-35%.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW09-RFP-029"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, August 10, 2009. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, August 10, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, August 10, 2009 and must be received no later than August 19, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.** This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (**120**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made, therefore, negotiation shall be conducted with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. The successful proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion, to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply

Armstrong still 2nd, but mountains loom



PERPIGNAN, France (AP)—In less than 48 hours, Lance Armstrong will have answered the last unresolved question about his capacity to win an eighth Tour de France: Can he still climb?

The 37-year-old Texan is second overall, but about to face his toughest test in this year's Tour as the grueling three-week race arrives in the Pyrenees mountains.

"That's my question mark, that's your question mark, that's everybody's question mark," Armstrong said. "But we don't have to wait long until we'll find out, that's the good thing."

Armstrong is again eliciting fear among his rivals after an astute move that earned valuable time over his rival and teammate Alberto Contador, plus an impressive show at the team time trial.

He couldn't be in a better position before heading into the mountains. But a lurch Friday in Arcalis, Andorra—the finish of the first of three Pyrenean stages—would bring him back down to earth.

Armstrong didn't take any risks during Wednesday's fifth stage with the mountains looming. Thomas Voeckler of France won the 122-mile ride along a windy Mediterranean Sea from Le Cap d'Agde to Perpignan after a long breakaway.

Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland retained the overall lead, with Armstrong a fraction of a second behind. Armstrong spent the day in front of the main peloton with his Astana teammates, trying to avoid any trouble on roads opened to strong winds.

Usually, Armstrong would dominate rivals on the race's first hilltop finish, but this time he is preaching caution, knowing Friday's stage will be crucial. At the top of the 7,350 foot summit, the seven-time champion will have to answer any doubts about his ability to scale punishing ascents.

"I think I'll be good," he said.

With defending champion Carlos Sastre 2:44 back, two-time runner-up Cadel Evans lagging 2:59 behind and Denis Menchov 3:52 back, the Tour could come down to Armstrong and Contador. The Spaniard is third overall, 19 seconds behind Armstrong. Former Tour runner-up Andreas Kloeckner is fourth, 23 seconds back, and Levi Leipheimer of the United States is fifth, 31 seconds behind.

Contador, the 2007 Tour winner, will ride with the support of home fans in the coming days. The stage Thursday is a 112-mile trek in Spain between Gerona and Barcelona, scheduled a day before the big rendezvous in Arcalis.

To Contador's advantage, he's the best climber in the world and his legs are 11 years younger than Armstrong's. He's rejoicing that the race is finally reaching his usual playground.

"I can't wait to get to the mountains because it's my territory. The sensations are good, but I always like to confirm them," he said.

Because he's behind Armstrong, Contador probably won't get carte blanche from Astana team manager Johan Bruyneel and won't be allowed to attack the Texan if he responds well in the climbs.



AP
American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong peddles in the pack during the fifth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 196.5 kilometers (122 miles) with start in Le Cap d'Agde and finish in Perpignan, southern France, Wednesday July 8, 2009.

Armstrong, who underwent a doping test Wednesday, seems perfectly aware that Contador will be physically stronger than him in the mountains. But the seasoned veteran believes his mental resources will prevail.

"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will," Armstrong said on his Twitter account, quoting Mahatma Gandhi.

Five years to the day after he put on the yellow jersey, Voeckler claimed his first stage victory at the Tour. He who wore the coveted leader's jersey for nine days in 2004.

The Frenchman made his move 3.1 miles from the finish, bursting ahead to escape a small breakaway. He arrived at the line with tears in his eyes.

"I dedicate this victory to myself, my son and my wife, who actually didn't see me win as she was returning home in a plane," the 30-year-old said.

Voeckler clocked 4 hours, 29 minutes, 35 seconds - seven seconds faster than the peloton that was barreling down on him. Mikhail Ignatiev of Russia was second, and Britain's Mark Cavendish was third, winning the sprint in the trailing peloton.

Voeckler is 138th overall, 6:48 behind Cancellara, and has almost no chance of winning.

"I don't think he is a fluke," Cancellara said. "It has been difficult for him because when he wore the jersey in 2004, a lot of people thought he was the new Bernard Hinault."

A five-time Tour winner, Hinault is the last Frenchman to win in 1985.

"I'm not one of the best riders in the world," Voeckler said. "I don't have the possibility to win a big Tour. But I'm still ambitious and I'm happy with my career so far."

Voeckler, who broke his collarbone earlier this season, and five other riders - Ignatiev, Anthony Geslin, Yauheni Hutarovich, Marcin Sapa and Albert Timmer - were involved in the breakaway after 7 1/2 miles.

Less than four miles from the finish, the leading group was reduced to four riders following an attack from Ignatiev, a track specialist making his Tour debut. Voeckler then bolted out from a roundabout and went all out to the line.

Rising star Robert Gesink of the Netherlands withdrew after breaking his wrist in a crash.

Police: McNair shot dead in his sleep by girlfriend



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Former NFL star Steve McNair was shot dead in his sleep last week by a 20-year-old girl-

friend distraught about mounting financial problems and her belief that he was seeing someone else, police said Wednesday.

Sahel Kazemi "was spinning out of control" when she shot McNair four times as he dozed on a sofa early Saturday, then turned the gun on herself, Police Chief Ronal Serpas said.

Interviews with friends revealed that she was making payments on two cars, her rent was doubling and she suspected the married McNair was having a second affair with another young woman.

She told a friend on Friday that "My life is a ball of s---and I should end it," Serpas said.

Police earlier had labeled McNair's death a homicide, but waited for further tests and the revelations about Kazemi's personal problems before concluding that she pulled the trigger of a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol in a condominium McNair rented with a friend.

McNair, 36, a quarterback for the Tennessee Titans most of his career, met Kazemi six months ago at a sports cafe where she was a waitress and his family often ate. She seemed happy and eager to build a life with him, but something went wrong.

"We do know that she was clearly sending a message during the last five to seven days of her life that things were going bad quickly," Serpas said, though there was no indication she told anyone she planned to harm McNair.

Serpas said detectives learned that Kazemi recently found out about another young woman she thought McNair was romantically involved with and had even followed that woman home, though she did not confront her.

Serpas said police believe McNair was asleep when he was killed because there were no defensive wounds. After shooting McNair in the head, Kazemi apparently shot him twice in the chest before shooting him again in the head.

Before shooting herself, she sat next to his body and "tried to stage it so she would fall in his lap," Serpas said. She did, but her body slid to the floor and ended up at McNair's feet. The gun was found underneath her.

The man McNair shared the condo with discovered the bodies and called a friend, Robert Gaddy, who arrived and called 911. Serpas said the man didn't call 911 himself because he was in shock.

Gaddy said Wednesday that what he saw in the condo will haunt him for the rest of his life. But he said he was glad police made clear that his longtime friend did not suffer during what he called a violent death McNair did not deserve.

Kazemi's family told reporters that the woman was so confident McNair

was divorcing his wife of 12 years that she was preparing to sell her furniture and move in with him.

But associate Mike Mu, who has worked with McNair's charitable association for years, said earlier Wednesday that McNair's wife, Mechelle McNair, "didn't know who this girl is." No records of divorce proceedings have surfaced. The McNairs have four children.

Gaddy defended McNair as a great husband.

"When Mechelle is ready to speak, she will let people know that," Gaddy said. "We can't justify anything that people are starting to find out, but the one thing that we can say, that I know for sure, is that Steve loved his family."

Two days before the shooting, police stopped Kazemi driving a Cadillac Escalade sport utility vehicle that McNair had given her for her birthday in May.

According to an arrest affidavit, Kazemi had bloodshot eyes and alcohol on her breath. She refused a breath test and told an officer "she was not drunk, she was high." She was charged with DUI. McNair was with her but not charged. He later made her bail.

Police are awaiting toxicology reports on both bodies.

Serpas said that even though both her name and McNair's were on the Cadillac's title, she was apparently responsible for making payments. She was also making payments on another car after she couldn't sell it.

Kazemi had no history of violence, but "on the last several days of her life it's obvious that she made some very poor decisions," Serpas said.

Mechelle McNair has not spoken publicly since the shooting. Bishop Joseph W. Walker III of Mount Zion Baptist Church, which the McNairs have attended since moving to Nashville in 1997, said Wednesday that she is doing as well as can be expected.

"Her faith is what's sustaining her now," he said. "We haven't talked about the circumstances of his death. She is processing it in a private way. It's obviously devastating on so many levels."

A memorial service is set for Thursday night in Nashville, with the funeral Saturday in his native Mississippi.

The four-time Pro Bowl quarterback was being remembered Wednesday at the stadium where he played much of his career. The Tennessee Titans opened LP Field for fans to watch video highlights of McNair's 13-year NFL career and look at photos of the quarterback. There was also a book for them to write messages that will be given to the family.

McNair was known as "Air McNair" for his passing prowess at Alcorn State in Mississippi. In 2000, he helped lead the Titans to the Super Bowl, where they ended up a yard short of a touchdown on the last play of the game when they trailed by seven points.

He spent the last two seasons with the Baltimore Ravens before retiring from the NFL last year.

Jones hits 3 homers as Rangers down Angels



ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Andruw Jones homered in his first three at-bats as the Texas Rangers routed the Los Angeles Angels 8-1 on Wednesday to take the outright lead in their American League West division race.

Jones hit home runs in the first and third innings, the latter giving Texas a 4-0 lead. He added a solo shot in the fifth. With a chance to tie the major league record for home runs in a game, Jones popped out in the sixth and struck out in the ninth.

Yankees 4, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, pitcher A.J. Burnett won his third straight start, steering New York to a narrow win over Minnesota.

Burnett pitched 6-1/3 innings, walking four and giving up seven hits.

Brett Gardner's two-run single helped New York build an early lead.

Rays 10, Blue Jays 9

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Ben Zobrist hit a three-run homer and the winning RBI single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to help Tampa Bay edge Toronto.

Zobrist homered in the fourth inning. His winning hit with two outs drove in Carl Crawford, who earlier singled before stealing second and third.

Red Sox 5, Athletics 4

In Boston, veteran pitcher Tim Lincecum earned his AL-leading 11th victory as Boston squeezed past Oakland.

Lincecum left to a standing ovation in the seventh inning in his final scheduled start before the All-Star game, for which he has been elected for the first time. The 42-year-old knuckleballer is 9-0 in his past 11 starts at Fenway Park.

Boston tied the game 1-1 in the sixth, then David Ortiz connected for a three-run shot later in the inning.

Tigers 3, Royals 1

In Detroit, rookie pitcher Lucas French,



Texas Rangers' Andruw Jones, right, celebrates his two-run home run with Josh Hamilton against the Los Angeles Angels during the first inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Wednesday, July 8, 2009.

making his second major-league start, outdueled Kansas City ace Zack Greinke to guide Detroit to victory.

French held the Royals to one run in 6 1-3 innings while Greinke gave up three runs, all in the first two innings, while striking out nine.

Orioles 5, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Baltimore took advantage of two errors by Seattle second baseman Jose Lopez to rally for five runs in the ninth inning.

Entering the ninth with a 3-0 lead, Mariners closer David Aardsma gave up a double, a walk and a single to load the bases.

After an infield single narrowed the deficit to 3-1, Baltimore's Nick Markakis hit a potential double-play ball to Lopez, who dropped it, allowing a second run to score. A subsequent two-run single put the Orioles up 4-3.

White Sox 5, Indians 1

In Chicago, pitcher Jose Contreras allowed just one run over 6 1-3 innings, directing Chicago's win over Cleveland.

Contreras walked only one and struck out nine.

Chicago's Jermaine Dye had an RBI double in the first inning and a run-scoring single in the third, then singled home another run in the seventh.

Braves 4, Cubs 1

Chicago, Kenshin Kawakami shut down Chicago for six innings, shortstop Yunel Escobar made a run-saving defensive play in the eighth, and Casey Kotchman homered for Atlanta to win a road series for the first time in nearly two months.

Marlins 7, Giants 0

San Francisco, Chris Volstad pitched a five-hitter for his first career complete game, Dan Uggla hit a three-run

homer and Florida beat San Francisco to avoid a sweep.

Volstad (6-8) struck out six to win for just the second time in eight starts, finishing the 2-hour, 22-minute game on an efficient 105 pitches.

Rockies 10, Nationals 4

Denver, Jorge De La Rosa pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Ryan Spilborghs hit a bases-loaded triple to key a four-run fifth and Col-

orado beat Washington to complete a three-game sweep.

Troy Tulowitzki had a two-run homer among his three hits and Carlos Gonzalez added three more hits for the Rockies, who have beaten the Nationals six straight times since August.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 2

Phoenix, Felipe Lopez hit a three-run homer to cap a five-run rally in the eighth, Max Scherzer pitched seven sharp innings and Arizona won its season-high fifth straight game.

Lopez's shot came after pinch-hitter Alex Romero gave the Diamondbacks a 3-2 lead with an RBI single.

Brewers 5, Cardinals 4

Milwaukee, Prince Fielder drove in the go-ahead run for Milwaukee with his two-out, eighth inning infield single.

Phillies 3, Reds 2

Philadelphia, Shane Victorino's RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning lifted Philadelphia.

Dodgers 8, Mets 0

New York, Manny Ramirez drove in three runs with two singles for Los Angeles, then was ejected following his second called strikeout.

Clayton Kershaw (6-5) combined with three relievers on a four-hitter, pinch-hitter Blake DeWitt hit a seventh-inning homer and Los Angeles twice scored with bases-loaded walks.

Yao retains optimism; NBA grants injury exception



HOUSTON (AP)—Even if the Rockets are worried about Yao Ming's return from a broken left foot, the All-Star center is trying to put everyone at ease.

"I am optimistic about the future and I will return to playing basketball when my foot has fully healed," Yao said in a statement released by his agent Wednesday. "My focus is on selecting the best treatment option for my injured foot and committing myself to do what I can to ensure a complete recovery."

Yao is still consulting with doctors about the hairline fracture and will announce within a week what kind of treatment he's chosen. How long that treatment might sideline him is the biggest question facing the Rockets in the offseason, though they've already cashed in on his injury in a sense.

The Rockets applied for a disabled player exception from the NBA a few weeks ago, betting that their center will miss next season as he recovers. The NBA agreed that Yao's return is unlikely and approved the request, freeing up about \$5.7 million that the Rockets used to sign free agent Trevor Ariza from the Lakers.

General manager Daryl Morey said the league's approval for the injury exception does not rule out Yao's return

this season.

Yao broke his foot in a second-round playoff game against the Los Angeles Lakers on May 8. He was fitted for a boot that immobilized his foot and the team initially said he would miss eight to 12 weeks.

The Rockets said less than two months later that tests showed Yao's foot had not healed and he was out indefinitely. The team doctor said later that the injury could potentially end Yao's career.

The Rockets are also awaiting the return of Tracy McGrady, who underwent microfracture surgery on his left knee in February and could be out until the middle of next season. Morey said he could've applied the disabled player exception to McGrady, but thought the league would be more willing to grant the request in Yao's case.

"We chose the one we thought had the best likelihood of succeeding," Morey said.

Since the league granted the injury exception, Morey and the Rockets retained their midlevel exception (also equal to about \$5.7 million) to offer to another free agent. The injury exception can only be used on one player, but the midlevel exception money can be divided and used on multiple players.

With free agent Ron Artest signing

with the Los Angeles Lakers, Morey moved quickly to land Ariza, a versatile forward who will fill Artest's spot in the starting lineup.

The Rockets are still looking for an experienced center—their projected starting lineup as of today would have no player taller than 6-foot-9 Luis Scola. Morey made an aggressive pitch to Orlando center Marcin Gortat, but Morey said the Rockets were unable to offer enough money.

Morey said he is pursuing another free agent, and hoped to announce another signing "in the next week or two." But he said the Rockets would mostly likely acquire a center to replace Yao through a trade this summer.

"The Rockets have kept me informed of what they are doing and why. I support them in their efforts to make our team as good as possible," Yao said in a statement released through his agent, John Huizinga.

Morey also has to make a decision on free agent guard Von Wafer, who made \$797,581 last season. Wafer may be the odd man out after the additions of Ariza and draft-night acquisition Jermaine Taylor.

But the main concern remains Yao, whom Morey called the "cornerstone" of the franchise last month.

NBA BRIEFS

Andersen reaches 5-year deal to stay with Nuggets

DENVER (AP)—Chris "Birdman" Andersen has reached a five-year deal to keep his high-flying, shot-blocking act with the Denver Nuggets, the team he revived his career with last season. Andersen's attorney, Mark Bryant, confirmed the agreement on Wednesday, saying it could be signed later in the day. The deal was first reported by the Denver Post. Andersen, who turned 31 on Tuesday, could make up to \$26 million over the lifetime of a back-loaded contract that gives the Nuggets financial flexibility.

Free agent McDyess chooses Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs landed free agent Antonio McDyess on Wednesday in another big offseason pickup for the aging NBA power that apparently isn't ready to fade away just yet. McDyess, who despite being 34 was among the most sought players on the market this summer, reached a deal with the Spurs and is expected to sign later this week, team spokesman Cliff Puchalski said. Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but the Spurs had their full midlevel exception, worth about \$5.85 million this season, to offer the 6-foot-9 forward.

Rockets introduce Trevor Ariza

HOUSTON (AP)—Trevor Ariza liked what he saw in Houston enough to leave the Los Angeles Lakers. The Rockets formally introduced the versatile forward on Wednesday after he signed a multiyear contract. The 24-year-old free agent agreed to join the

Rockets last Thursday night, switching places with free agent Ron Artest, who left Houston to play for the Lakers. "I think this was the best place for me," Ariza said. "I think I have more of an opportunity here." The 6-foot-8 Ariza averaged 8.9 points and 4.3 rebounds and shot 32 percent from 3-point range for Los Angeles in the regular season.

Raptors re-sign former No. 1 pick Bargnani

TORONTO (AP)—The Toronto Raptors new core is taking shape. The Raptors re-signed former No. 1 pick Andrea Bargnani to a five-year, \$50 million contract extension Wednesday, as they also closed in on a deal with free agent forward Hedo Turkoglu. Along with point guard Jose Calderon, already under contract through 2012-13, and DeMar DeRozan, a swingman taken ninth overall in last month's draft, general manager Bryan Colangelo is convinced he's laid the foundation for a contender in the NBA's increasingly strong Eastern Conference in the coming seasons.

Warriors sign top pick Stephen Curry

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry, the seventh overall pick in last month's NBA draft, has signed with the Golden State Warriors. The team did not release terms of the contract Wednesday, but Curry can be paid up to \$2.71 million, which is 120 percent of the requirements of the NBA's rookie wage scale for the spot he was chosen. The 21-year-old Curry left Davidson after three seasons. He led the nation in scoring with 28.6 points per game as a junior, and also averaged 4.4 rebounds, 5.6 assists and 2.53 steals in 34 games.

CNMI ends World Series bid in style

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI Major All-Stars bowed out of competition in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament with a bang, shutting out Indonesia, 8-0, yesterday at the Shing Sheng Stadium in Hong Kong Disneyland.

The CNMI bets finished the round-robin play with a 3-1 record, posting their lone loss in the tournament against Guam. Guam and the CNMI tied for the No. 1 spot in Pool B, but the former won in the tiebreak due to the head-to-head results. Guam topped the CNMI, 6-3, last Wednesday. Guam's absorbed its lone defeat in the tournament at the hands of the Philippines.

The Philippines could have forced a three-way tie for the No. 1 spot with Guam and the

CNMI and could have given the Commonwealth a chance for a finals seat. However, the Philippines, which the CNMI downed last Tuesday, 8-2, lost to Indonesia last Wednesday, 1-11.

Despite losing their chances to advance to the finals and get a shot at a World Series ticket, the CNMI youth sluggers still gave their best in their last game.

Jose Lizama Jr. allowed only two hits, walked none, and struck out 13.

On offense, Keene Guerrero and Jeremy Lizama hit one homers each at the top of the fourth inning to lead the shutout win.

Guam's finals foe tomorrow will be the winner of Korea and Chinese-Taipei game, which was played yesterday, but results were unavailable at press time. The winner of today's finals game at 1pm will advance to the World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Another Guam victory today will bring the CNMI neighbor to back-to-back World Series stints and sixth overall since the tournament's inception in 2001.

With the CNMI sluggers out of contention, they will now just attend the closing ceremony set for 3pm today and the farewell banquet at 7pm.

The CNMI delegation, which included CNMI District Administrator James Ada and Saipan Little League Baseball president Mike Borja, will return to Saipan on July 12.

The CNMI Major All-Stars are managed by Elmer Sablan with Randall Aguon and Pete Tomokane as coach and assistant coach, respectively. Other members of the team are Alden Ngeskebei, Darion Jones, Frankie Lieto, Gayvan Uchau, Ian Rogolifoi, Jhace Palacios, Jonathan Cabrera, Khobby Kaipat, Nathan Sablan, and Raymond Saralu.

HANMI Cup to start, first meeting set



Coordinator Lito "William" Espino is eyeing an August start for the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League.

He said the August start will be ideal to the hotel industry because the month is usually considered a weak one in terms of tourist arrivals.

"This will be the perfect time to start the HANMI Cup. It will give hotel staff something to do during the lean period," he said.

Espino said he has extended invitations to hotels on Saipan, namely Fiesta Resort and Spa, Saipan Grand Hotel, Pacific Islands Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel, Palms Resort Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, and Marianas Resort and Spa.

Espino has also set the league's first organizational meeting this Monday, July 13, 9am at Winchell's Garapan.

He said all interested hotels must send a representative to attend the *tete-a-tete*.

Like the previous two editions of the HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, the 2008-2009 season will be organized by the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, where Espino is president.

For more information about the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, call Espino at 287-3723.

After Aqua Resort Club won in 2007, the HANMI Cup went through a roller-coaster season in its second year, which saw the combined Fiesta Resort and Spa and Saipan Grand Hotel team take home the title to the delight of its fans and employees.

Led by the high-scoring duo

of Ryan Sanciangco and Elmer Esdrelon, the Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. quintet defeated PIC in the winner-take-all finals last April, 87-72.

The game saw Fiesta-Grand draw 57 points from Sanciangco and Esdrelon, while PIC was led by the 18 markers of Derrick Tudela.

On other side of the emotional spectrum, the 2007-2008 season witnessed the death of veteran cager Rick Alegre of Aqua Resort during an elimination game against Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The league was postponed for a week to allow players to mourn for Alegre, who won a number of most valuable player awards not to mention championships with his mother team, Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense, in the United Filipino Organization's yearly basketball leagues. **(Mark Rabago)**

AGUON

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zation league, but it only lasts for about two months every school year.

Off-island tournaments are rare, as besides last month's FIBA caging, the last time a CNMI team went to a tournament outside the Commonwealth was in 2008 in Guam during the FIBA Youth Basketball Tournament.

CNMI's foes in last month's FIBA tournament, Australia,

New Zealand, New Caledonia, and Guam, have been to various leagues and tournaments in their own country and outside their home turf.

"We also need to commit ourselves to a longer training time (at least a year)," said Aguon, who started conducting tryouts for the CNMI Nationals late December last year and announced the final lineup of the team in May this year.

The CNMI mentor added that in a short tournament like the FIBA caging, it is very important to focus on the basics of

the game, such as making free throws and lessening turnovers.

"We need to make our free throws and convert on turnovers. If we did this, we could have upset some of the teams in the FIBA tournament," Aguon said.

In four games, the CNMI committed 129 turnovers for an average of 32.2 errors per match, the highest average among the five squads in the tournament. If those miscues were converted into points, the CNMI's foes could have at least gained 60 points. The Commonwealth's cagers made 57 trips to the 15-

foot-line in four matches, but made only 31 charities

Aguon's wards were winless in the tournament, but still he was proud of how the CNMI Nationals played in all four games.

"Our biggest accomplishment is that we showed that our players can run up and down the court with the best of them. This means we were conditioned to play in this high-caliber tournament," Aguon said.

"I had no illusion that we will win a game. While I hoped for a win, knowing the kind of competition we have, we were

up against the odds. I am very proud and happy on the boys' performance. Now, we know where we stand and can move to improve on that," he added.

Aguon also congratulated four of his guards who tried to hold their own against the towering cagers from Australia, New Caledonia, and New Zealand.

"All the guys did their best to play their assigned roles on the team. However, those that played beyond our expectations were our guards, Jomary Tumaquip, Quincy Johnson, Dan Barcinas, and most especially

Pete Iguel," Aguon said.

"The men and women who played for the CNMI are champions just for having the courage to come out and train hard for this tournament. Thank you, too to BANMI for hosting the event and most especially to our home crowd that came out time and time again to support us," he added.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE					
East Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	51	33	.607	—	
New York	50	34	.595	1	
Tampa Bay	46	39	.541	5 1/2	
Toronto	43	43	.500	9	
Baltimore	38	47	.447	13 1/2	
Central Division					
Detroit	46	38	.548	—	
Chicago	44	40	.524	2	
Minnesota	43	42	.506	3 1/2	
Kansas City	36	48	.429	10	
Cleveland	33	52	.388	13 1/2	
West Division					
Texas	47	36	.566	—	
Los Angeles	46	37	.554	1	
Seattle	43	41	.512	4 1/2	
Oakland	35	48	.422	12	
NATIONAL LEAGUE					
East Division					
Philadelphia	44	38	.537	—	
Florida	44	42	.512	2	
Atlanta	41	43	.488	4	
New York	40	43	.482	4 1/2	
Washington	24	58	.293	20	
Central Division					
St. Louis	46	40	.535	—	
Milwaukee	44	40	.524	1	
Chicago	41	41	.500	3	
Cincinnati	41	42	.494	3 1/2	
Houston	41	42	.494	3 1/2	
Pittsburgh	38	47	.447	7 1/2	
West Division					
Los Angeles	53	31	.631	—	
San Francisco	46	38	.548	7	
Colorado	45	39	.536	8	
Arizona	36	49	.424	17 1/2	
San Diego	35	49	.417	18	
Yesterday's Games					
Baltimore 5, Seattle 3					
Detroit 3, Kansas City 1					
Tampa Bay 10, Toronto 9					
Boston 5, Oakland 4					
N.Y. Yankees 4, Minnesota 3					
Chicago White Sox 5, Cleveland 1					
Texas 8, L.A. Angels 1					
Houston 5, Pittsburgh 0					
Atlanta 4, Chicago Cubs 1					
Colorado 10, Washington 4					
Arizona 6, San Diego 2					
Florida 7, San Francisco 0					
Philadelphia 3, Cincinnati 2					
N.Y. Mets 5, L.A. Dodgers 4					
Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 4					

By The Associated Press

ROME

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Jonathan Sakovich holds the CNMI national and age group records in the 200m IM (2:14.67), which were posted on December 10, 1987.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, who will be accompanying Wong and company to the World Championship, challenges the 18-year-old swimmer to set personal best times in all events and make more CNMI records.

Since the tournament in Rome will be his last for now for the CNMI and Tsunami Saipan, Wong can't help but reminisce

how he started in the sport when he was seven or eight years old and thanked the people who helped him become a competitive swimmer.

"First of all, I would like to thank God, for setting the path for me in swimming and in everything else in life. I would like to thank Bill Sakovich, mostly known as 'Mister' for being my first coach, for teaching me discipline, and for the dedication for SSC back when I was a kid," Wong said.

"I would also like to thank all those teachers that I had for the American Red Cross lessons and all the coaches I had in between, including coach Iijima of Tsuna-

mi Guam and coach Mike Stewart. Big thanks go most especially to coach Hiro Kimura, for his amazing dedication to Tsunami Saipan, and for the discipline he has rooted in all of the swimmers. He gave (and is giving) me mental toughness that I will need in college swimming. I also thanked the Kimura family [Yuko, Shin, and Ken] for their support, and all Tsunami Saipan swimmers. My family and friends also deserved my thanks for their endless support," he added.

Before going to the World Championships later this month, Wong competed in his last age group tournament through the 2009 Guam

Championships last month.

"It was very saddening to swim my last meet in Guam. I have been going there every few months and every year for 10 years. I have learned so much aside from swimming, and I have made so many great friends. I didn't go just to swim. I went to say goodbye to my friends, and to break the 200m IM. That was my goal for over two years. I may have just broken it by a few milliseconds, but to break it meant so much to me. I missed my only high school prom to swim the 200m IM and say goodbye to old friends," Wong said.

Competing in off-island tour-

naments, such as the ones in Guam will be one of the things that Wong will be missing then he starts a new chapter of his life in Hawaii.

"My best memories are the trips to Guam, the craziness at the airports and hotels, the rare parties, and the few moments after practice. But most of all, it's the sight of the togetherness of the team every time we practice, that is something that I cherish," he added.

When he leaves, Wong wants to remind his teammates with this: "No Tsunami swimmer just swims and waits for the results. They train hard for it, every day, in practice."

CHONG

From Page 36

will talk about and remember for a long time.

"Leather will be flying, blood will be spilled, body parts will be injured, and we will have an even better respect for each other, no matter who wins. I don't know how many rounds it will be, but I will make sure if it does go three rounds, that it will be worth watching," the police officer from Guam said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Chong clarified that no animosity exists between him and

Fitial and he even said that he doesn't mind losing again to the Marianas Elite stalwart as long as both of them give fight fans a good fight.

"It doesn't matter to me. You win some, you lose some. Me and Kelvin are cool with each other and have no animosity. Cuki [Alvarez] asked me to fight and the opponent happened to be Kelvin," he said.

The THUGCOP Gym fighter, who will go into his fight against Fitial with a 17-win, 6-loss record, added that the crowd should expect a stand-up bout and not much ground fighting so prevalent in previous local MMA event.

"He's a stand up fighter, so am I. We would more than likely keep it standing," said Chong, who said that he is preparing for the fight by lifting heavier weights and going through cardio training and other drills.

Trench Warz X: Collision will be held on July 31 at the Saipan World Resort.

Aside from the Chong-Fitial bout, six other Guam vs. Saipan fights have been slated and they are the following:

- Team Lockdown's Eric "The Terror" Tedtaotao vs. Marianas Elite's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas in the 240-lb. super heavyweight division;
- XXXTREME's "Kill" Bill

Saures vs. Da Crew 671's Mike "Ogre" Davis in the big brawl;

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Tony "Rush" Reyes vs. Tanapag Beach Badd Boiz/Team Zogai's Ryan Gardee in the 140-lb. division;

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Jun "Shockeraba" San Nicolas vs. Marianas Elite's Martin Ayuyu in the 130-b. division;

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Thomas "The Saint" Calvo vs. Predator Combat Team's Nate "The Terrible" Flores in the 155-lb. division; and

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Shawn "The Ace" Mantanona vs. Team Zogai's Shane "Insane" Camacho in the 180-lb. division.

Trench Tech president and promoter Cuki Alvarez said he is also looking to pair four more Saipan fighters with Guam fighters in the following days.

The four local fighters that have signed up to see action in Trench Warz X are Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse (4 wins and 0 losses), Chris "No Luv" Laayug (4-1), Slade "The Rage" Adelbai (7 wins, 3 losses, 1 draw), and Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo (4-3).

Tickets for Trench Warz X: Collision will go on sale soon. General admission costs \$25 and VIP is \$35. Alvarez said doors will open at 7pm with the fights starting at 8pm.

16 Pacific Islanders compete in World Champs

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



CNMI's D.J. Ngirchongor is among the 16 athletes from Pacific Island

nations participating in the ongoing Sudtirol 2009 World Youth Championships in Bressanone, Italy.

Also in the list are American Samoa's Eden Annandale, the Cook Island's Daniel Tutai, Fiji's Banuve Tabakauco, Federated States of Micronesia's Ashley Apiner, Guam's Norreen Ericsson, Kiribati's Uaati Iaaro, Marshall Islands' Jamodre Lalita, Nauru's Lovelite Detenamo, Palau's Sorai Bella Reklai, Papua New Guinea's John Rivan, Samoa's Margaret Satupai, Solomon Islands' Sukulu Mathew, Tonga's Feso Tapele, and Vanuatu's Valentine Hello.

The 16 Pacific Islands are joining several Australian and New Zealand youth athletes in the world championships, which started last Monday and will run until Sunday.

Ngirchongor left Saipan for Italy last Saturday and will compete in the 200m run.

The 16-year-old CNMI bet is set to



D.J. Ngirchongor, left, seen here training with Douglas Dillay, center, and Tyrone Omar, is among the 16 athletes from Pacific Island nations participating in the ongoing Sudtirol 2009 World Youth Championships in Bressanone, Italy.

debut in the world championships today. The heats in the 200m race are set for 11:15am (around 7pm on Saipan). Ngirchongor's heat schedule was unavailable at press time.

Also scheduled in the morning sessions of Day 3 of the weeklong meet

are the heats in the women's 100m hurdles, women's javelin throw, men's triple jump, men's 2,000m steeplechase, women's high jump, women's 200m run, women's javelin throw, and men's shot put.

Ngirchongor is hoping to set a new

personal best time when he races today in the 200m run. His personal best time is around the 24-second mark. Tyrone Omar holds the CNMI record in the 200m race, timing in at 22.40 seconds during the XIII Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa in 2007.

Tsunami Saipan raises cash for Rome meet

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Sixteen members of the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan joined their parents as well as officials of the club in a carwash fundraising event last Saturday at McDonald's Middle Road.

The fundraising was in behalf of the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation, which will use the money to help send four Tsunami Saipan swimmers to the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

According to Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, the carwash raised a total of \$545.

"Thank you NMSF members for the cash they donated. Most of money were donations from parents, swimmers, and friends. We would also like to extend our appreciation to McDonald's and its owner Joe Ayuyu for allowing us the use of their parking lot," he said.

The 16 Tsunami Saipan members that lent their hands in the car wash were Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, Shin and



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers are joined by their parents while posing for a photo during their carwash fundraiser held last Saturday at McDonald's Middle Road.

Kensuke Kimura, Angel Marie Tan, Ta-kumi Sugie, Daisuke Fitia, Kaito, Hiroto and Ryuto Yanai, Steven Choi, Midori and Yuuki Nishida, Angel De Jesus, Tori Camacho, Mark Maestro, and William Johnson.



Selected to compete in the 13th FINA World Championships

in Rome are Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, Kai Staal, and Shin Kimura.

It will be Wong's and Graf's second stint in the World Championships, while Kimura and Staal will be first-timers.

Wong will compete in the 50m, 100m, and 200m breaststroke, 200m medley relay, and 50m freestyle. Graf will plunge into action in the 50m butterfly and 100m, 800m, and 50m freestyle. Kimura's event are the 50m, 100m, and 400m freestyle, while Kai is joining the 50m butterfly, 100m breaststroke, 50m and 100m freestyle, and 50m backstroke.

The four CNMI swimmers will be joined in Rome by coach Kimura and Northern Marianas Swimming Federation representative Mike Villagomez.

The 13th FINA World Championships will feature Olympians and the best swimmers in the world and will take place at Foro Italico and Ostia from July 17 to Aug. 2. Wong, Graf, Staal, and Kimura will join around 2,800 athletes from 200 nations in the meet.

Actual competitions in the biennial youth tournament started last Wednesday with Kenya, Syria, and Germany claiming the first gold medals in Bressanone.

Purity Rionoripo became the third successive Kenyan winner of the World Youth Championships 3,000 meters title after clocking in at 9:03.79.

Lena Urbaniak was the first ever German girl to win the shot put event with his 14.96m heave, while Hamid Manssour of Syria posted 64.20m in his second attempt to notch the men's hammer throw gold medal.

CWGA July tourney this Saturday



The CNMI Women's Golf Association will hold its July tournament tomorrow, July 11, at the

Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, show time is set at 12pm and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 1pm at the west course.

For more information, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted from the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. (PR)

NMBA mulls mini tournament in kids clinic

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

To cap its four-weekend kids clinic, Northern Marianas Badminton Association is planning to hold a mini tournament at the REM court in Gualo Rai.

NMBA started the clinic on June 27 and the last two sessions will be held on July 18 and 19 from 2pm to 4pm.

"All the participants will be given certificates after the clinic and we're planning to hold a mini-tournament on the last day of the clinic," NMBA membership committee head Hapi Gabriel said.

So far, the clinic has attracted around 30 participants and Gabriel said they are still accepting participant for this weekend and next weekend's sessions. Registration fee is

only \$5. The clinic is open to children in the 7 to 18 age group.

Gabriel said they are hoping to gain more youth members through the series of clinics.

"The purpose of the clinic is to introduce and promote badminton to the youth, as we aim to gain more young members," Gabriel said.

"Right now, we are teaching them the basics of playing badminton, like forehand and backhand shots and footwork. We also give them some game exercises," Gabriel said.

The weekend clinic is conducted by NMBA members and officers, namely Gabriel, NMBA Community Project & Development chair Edwin Montoya, committee head Macoi Aguda, assistant coaches Emily Vargas and Gigi Zapanta, and NMBA

president Shirley Kim.

After the kids clinic, NMBA officials will be holding a meeting to discuss two upcoming tournaments this year.

Gabriel said there is no definite date yet for the mixed doubles tournament, but they are hoping to start the event next month. The annual team tournament is scheduled in November.

The last tournament NMBA hosted was the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament in the last week of March until Mid April, featuring competitions only in the men's and women's doubles.

The winners of the tournament were Daniel Macario and Jorge Olanda (Men's B) Rick Brien and Frank Villagomez (Men's C) Macoi Aguda and Saul Gargallo (Men's A), Ingrid Sanchez and Cristy Vil-

laflor (Women's B), and and Annette Quiambao and Irene Santiago (Women's C).

For more information about NMBA and its activities, contact Gabriel at 287-4274.



An NMBA member teaches participants how to hold the shuttlecock when serving during a clinic last week at the REM court in Gualo Rai.



Armstrong still 2nd, but mountains loom

In less than 48 hours, Lance Armstrong will have answered the last unresolved question about his capacity to win an eighth Tour de France: Can he still climb?

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Saipan Tribune Sports

16 Pacific Islanders compete in World Champs

CNMI's D.J. Ngirchongor is among the 16 athletes from Pacific Island nations participating in the ongoing Sudtiro 2009 World Youth Championships in Bressanone, Italy.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Aguon shares lessons learned in FIBA caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Veteran coach Rufino Aguon has added valuable lessons gained from the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament to his long list of basketball do's and don'ts.

Aguon, who coached the CNMI Men's Nationals in the FIBA caging late last month, mentioned four philosophies in basketball, namely bringing together all stakeholders in teaching the sport, having more tournaments, longer training, and focusing on the basics of the sport.

"We, as a basketball community must work together by teaching the same basketball



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI Nationals' Pete Iguel dribbles out of the defense of New Caledonia's Rodrigue Tetainanuari, right, and Benoit Weber, left, during their game in last month's 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rome is Rezne Wong's swan song

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

First of a four-part series

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Rezne Wong will have his last hurrah in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

Wong will be leaving Saipan after the world championships to continue his studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa and he is thankful to be given another

opportunity to represent the CNMI in the biennial tournament and swim with his teammates for the last time, for now.

"Rome 2009 is something to look forward to. I want to learn the most I can for college and enjoy my last meet with my teammates," said Wong, who debuted in the world championships in Melbourne in 2007.

The Marianas High School graduate will readshirt for UH-Manoa this school year

after he and teammates Cooper Graf, Shin Kimura, and Kai Staal compete in Rome later this month

"In Rome, I want to improve my IM (individual medley) and breaststroke times," he added.

Wong will be competing in the 50m, 100m, and 200m breaststroke, 200m individual medley relay, and 50m freestyle

events in the world championships, which will run from July 17 to Aug. 2.

Wong holds three CNMI records in the 17 to 18 age groups, namely the 50m breaststroke (33.03 seconds), 100m breaststroke (1:10.21), and 200m breaststroke (2:30:54). These are also CNMI national marks.

See ROME on Page 34



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rezne Wong will be competing in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy later this month.

Chong vows fight for ages in bout vs. Fitial

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

TRENCH TECH

Former Pacific Xtreme Championship heavyweight titleholder Manny "The Enforcer" Chong doesn't know how many rounds his bout with Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial in Trench Warz X: Collision will go.

However, he vowed that the main event featuring two of the best fighters the Marianas have produced will be something mixed martial arts fans

See CHONG on Page 34



Chong

skills and team skills so that when players move up the national level they already know the system," Aguon said.

"Second, we need to play more high caliber games (tournament/leagues) to prepare and help our players mature. We do not get this kind on island except for a couple of teams," he added.

The CNMI have only the Budweiser Cup and Rotary youth caging as its regular leagues. The 25-and-under caging was cancelled in 2007 and 2008 and until now, no word has been heard about the league. The CNMI has a high school caging through the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organi-

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

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Reality bites

Two national sports stories slap me in the face like a rude visitor. They both transverse the line between what we usually consider to be fun and games and that area of cold, harsh reality of everyday life we call the news.

Steve McNair, a former star NFL quarterback, is killed in a condo with a girl almost half his age. Nicole Bobek, former USA figure skating champion, is busted for being near the top of a drug ring dealing crystal methamphetamine.

The moral of both these stories is, huh, there are no morals.

Charles Barkley was right: athletes should not be held up as role models. He said kids should look up to their parents as role models instead. Well, maybe in this case, they shouldn't.

Nashville police labeled McNair a "victim" in a murder. The real victims are his four sons and wife who must live with this for the rest of their lives.

Based on media reports, the 36-year-old retired and revered millionaire was having a steamy affair with a 20-year-old waitress from Dave and Buster's restaurant who obviously took the relationship far more seriously than he did.

He was shot in the head and twice in the chest from close range and then again point blank on the other side of the head point while sleeping on the couch. She died from a single bullet to the head in what police are calling a murder-suicide.

It may be that we will never know exactly what happened. My guess, based on her telling her family that McNair was getting divorced and she was going to marry him, is that she found out that was not happening, learned that he was also seeing someone else, so she figured if she can't have him for herself, then nobody can.

Fatal attraction, indeed.

McNair's wife, who didn't know the girl, is understandably devastated and I cannot even imagine how his four sons will be able to reconcile this with the superhero image they probably had of their father.

I don't know if Nicole was married or has children but I'm pretty sure there were young girls in gyms all across America who admired her and wanted to emulate her in style, grace, beauty, and achievement. But now the mug shot of the 31-year-old makes her look like 41 going on 51. Nobody admires her now.

As USA champion and world bronze medalist, she was set for life as a gymnastics instructor. She could have had a flood of students in a top-notch program and made big bucks, living a life of luxury. Instead, she got suckered in by an all-consuming drug. She should have stuck with the ice she skated on, not the ice that destroys lives.

Both of these sad, tragic stories reveal something that we already knew, or should have known but often forget: athletes are just ordinary, real people subject to the same temptations, to the same problems that other people have except they are magnified.

Life is more than just fun and games.

Choose your heroes carefully.

That is the moral of these stories.